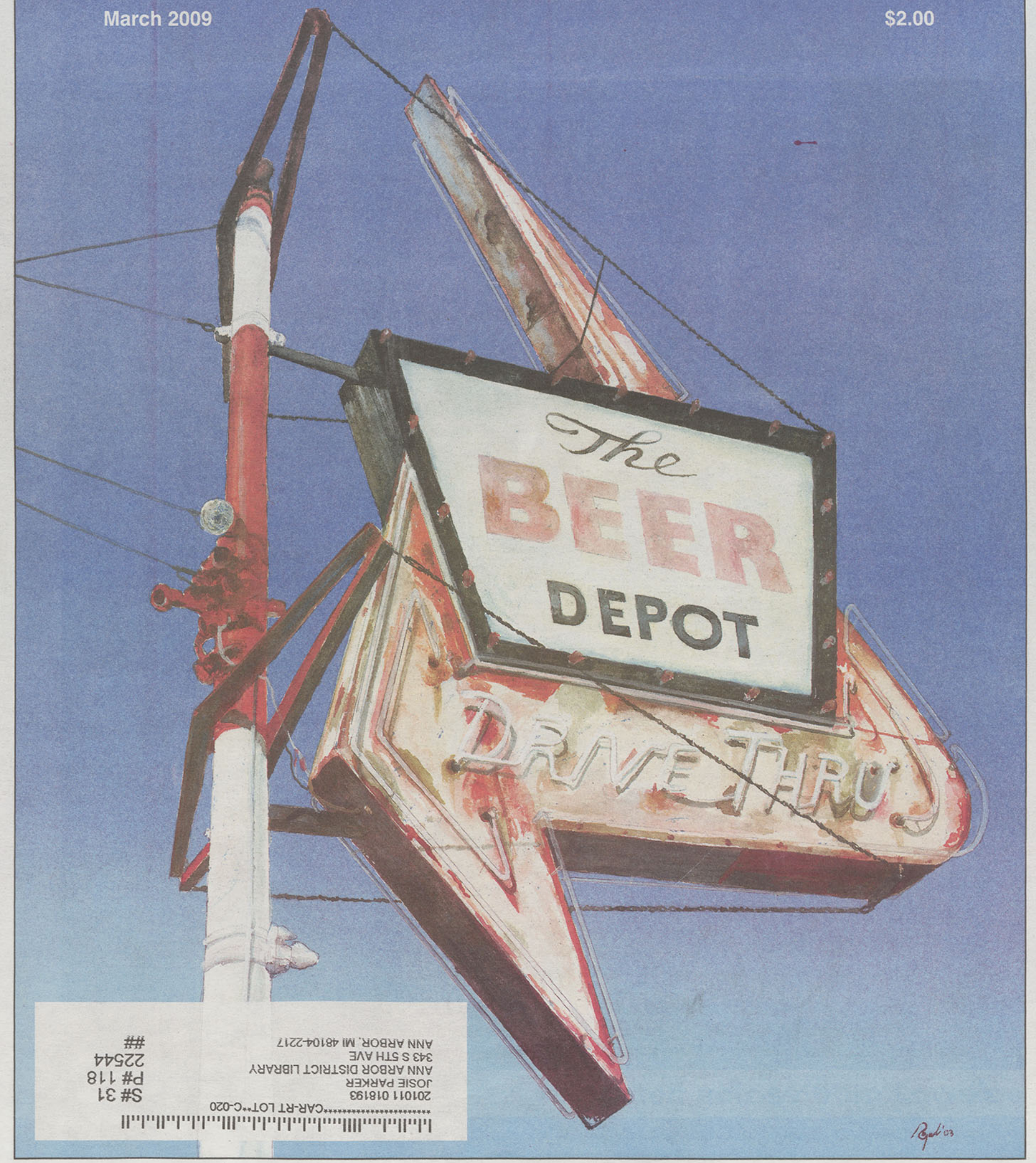
Ann Arbor Observer

March 2009

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Ann Arbor Municipal Center



On March 2, 2009, construction will begin on the Ann Arbor Municipal Center. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at City Hall on Friday, April 3.

More details will be available on the city's website closer to the date.

The construction project will be completed in two phases. Phase 1a will include building the 15th District Court and Police facility on the west side of the current building, which is the current City Hall parking lot. Phase 1b involves complete remodeling of the basement and first floors and necessary minor renovations to the sixth floor of the Guy C. Larcom Jr. Building.

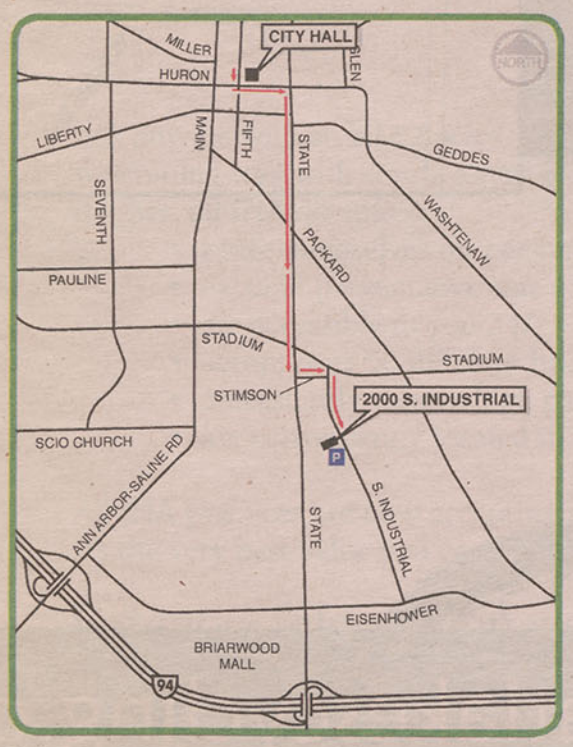
Phase 1b will begin after the 15th District Court and Police move into the new building and will take approximately six months for completion. When phase 1b is completed, several service units currently located in leased space, including units now in the City Center Building, will be relocated to the Ann Arbor Municipal Center *(Larcom Building)*. Some of these units include the Customer Service Center, Human Resources and Public Services Administration. Upon construction completion, the Ann Arbor Municipal Center address will become 301 E. Huron St.

New temporary entrance

A temporary public/staff entrance has been built on the north side of the current City Hall building off Ann St. This new entrance will be in place for the duration of the construction project.

Other important changes include:

- The City Hall parking lot will only be accessible from Ann St. Signage will be installed on Ann St. and Fifth Ave. to note this change to vehicular traffic.
- The payment drop box located outside of City Hall has been relocated to the north side of Ann St. east of Fifth Ave. The payment drop box location inside City Hall has not changed.
- Approximately 14 metered parking spaces will be installed on N. Fifth Ave. north of Ann St. and south of Community High School for public use. The Downtown Development Authority provides a variety of parking options for those working in or visiting downtown Ann Arbor. Detailed parking structure and meter locations are available online at www.a2dda.org.



Subscribe to construction project updates

The City of Ann Arbor web site, www.a2gov.org, now offers a free subscription feature to notify subscribers when new information is available, including updates on the Ann Arbor Municipal Center construction project as well as over 30 other topics of interest. To subscribe, visit www.a2gov.org, and click on the red envelope in the top right corner of the homepage.

Select city services temporarily relocated to 2000 S. Industrial

In order to decrease customer traffic to City Hall during construction and facilitate customer service, certain city service units were relocated to a city facility located at 2000 S. Industrial in February.

Services relocated include:

- Parking Ticket Appeals: Information hotline (734) 794-6549
- Building & Trade Permit Services: (734) 794-6267, Option #2
- Construction Plan Review: (734) 794-6267, Option #2
- Inspection and Plan Review Staff: (734) 794-6267, Option #1
- Rental Housing Services: (734) 794-6267, Option #3
- Right-of-Way and Sidewalk Occupancy Permits: (734) 794-6267, Option #5

Once construction is complete in approximately 18 to 24 months, these services will be relocated back to the Ann Arbor Municipal Center. There will be no phone number or e-mail changes as a result of these relocations.

New City Phone Numbers

The City of Ann Arbor has replaced its aging phones with a new system that provides the public with easier access to city staff and services. As a result of the new phone system, some city phone numbers have changed. For a limited time, a recording will give callers the new number when they dial the outdated number. Most city personnel now can be reached via an extension, and the new system provides a convenient dial-by-name feature. Of course, 9-1-1 remains as the number to call for emergency assistance; and the city's main phone number, (734) 994-2700, has been carried over as well. In addition, a new main city phone number, (734) 794-6000, provides access to any city staff or service via an automated attendant. Phone numbers for the 15th District Court will transition after their move to the Ann Arbor Municipal Center in 2010. A quick-reference directory of the new city phone numbers is available on the "contact us" tab on the city web site, www.a2gov.org.

2009 Board and Commission meeting relocations

Due to City Hall construction activities taking place prior to 7 p.m., several City of Ann Arbor Board and Commission monthly meetings will be relocated from January 2009 through December 2011.

Please consult the city's meeting and events calendar, the Tree Town Log, and the online calendar, www.a2gov.org/calendar, for monthly meeting listings and locations.

Great Lakes Cycling & Fitness

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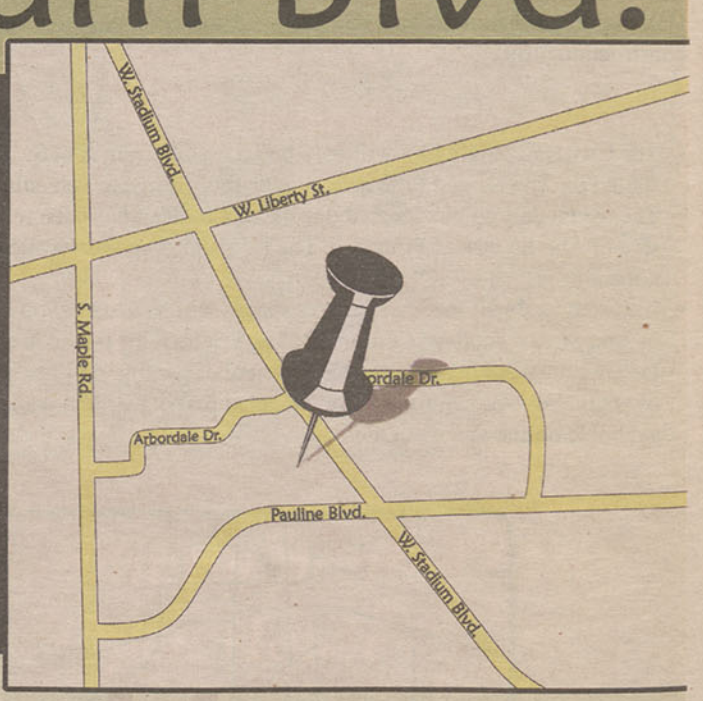
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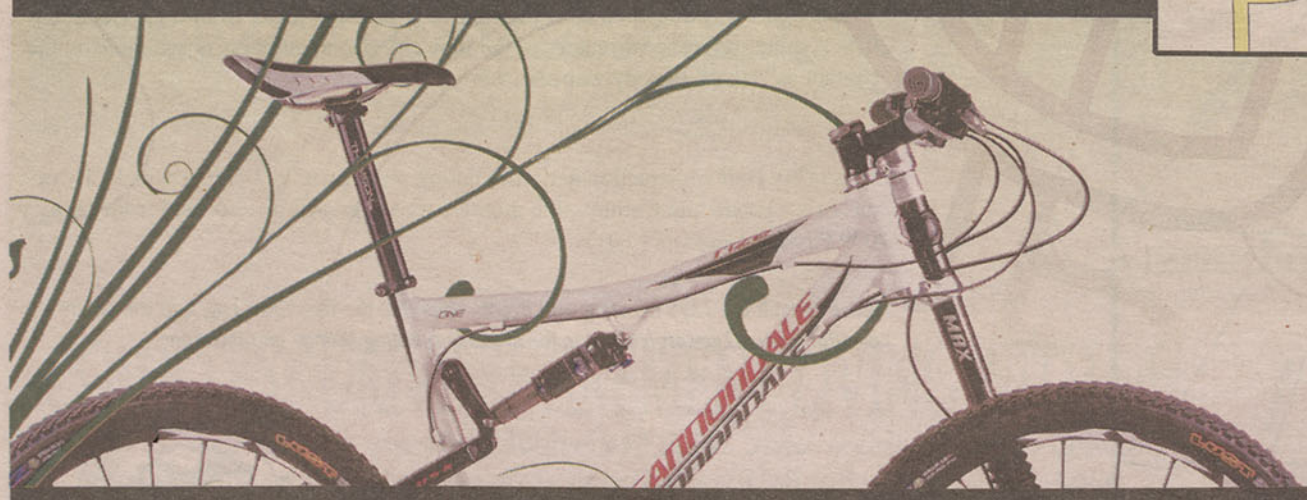
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Talk Show Democracy

THE LECTURE SERIES

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202 S. Thayer St, Room 2022 • Ann Arbor

January 20 "Tell It Like It Is: Thinking about Public Space and the Media in China"
Chris Berry, Goldsmiths, University of London

February 17 "What is Aljazeera?"
Juan Cole, University of Michigan

March 3 "News Without Newspapers"
John Darnton, journalist and novelist

March 10 "If Honesty is the Best Policy, What's Next Best: The Ethos and Ethics of the Political Cartoons of The New Yorker"
Robert Mankoff, cartoon editor, The New Yorker

March 17 "Documenting the Global Cities of Los Angeles & Beijing: Learning About Democracy in Summer Exchange Workshops"
Marsha Kinder, University of Southern California

April 7 "How Can We all be in this Together if We Live in Different Realities or Whatever Happened to Culture and Communication?"
Lawrence Grossberg, University of North Carolina

April 14 "China and the End of the Unipolar Moment"
Howard French, journalist, Columbia University

RELATED EXHIBITION

- **Speech Acts from Democracy in America, the National Campaign**
  February 12 – May 15, 2009
  Institute for the Humanities Gallery, Room 1010
  Gallery hours: Mon–Fri, 9 AM – 5 PM
  Opening reception, February 12, 6:30 – 8 PM

Talk Show Democracy

THE CONFERENCE

March 27 and 30, 2009
Palmer Commons
100 Washtenaw Avenue • Ann Arbor

March 27, 10 AM – 5 PM
Forum Hall

- **American Media and its American Public**
  W. Lance Bennett
  Michael X. Delli Carpini
- **The Rise of the Celebrity News Genre in the 1950s**
  Lynn Spigel
- **Voice, Violence and Democracy**
  Dilip Gaonkar
- **South African Media and the State of Things**
  Sean Jacobs
  Lucia Saks
  Herman Wasserman

March 30, 1 – 5 PM • Great Lakes Room

- **The Funny Part: Political Humor and its Role in Shaping the Democratic Process**
  organized by the Knight-Wallace Fellowship program KWF
  James W. Cook
  Bob Mankoff
  John Morreall
  Patrick Oliphant

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March 2009 vol. 33 • no. 7

Cover: *Beer Depot.* Watercolor by M. Royal Schroll (mroyalschroll.com).



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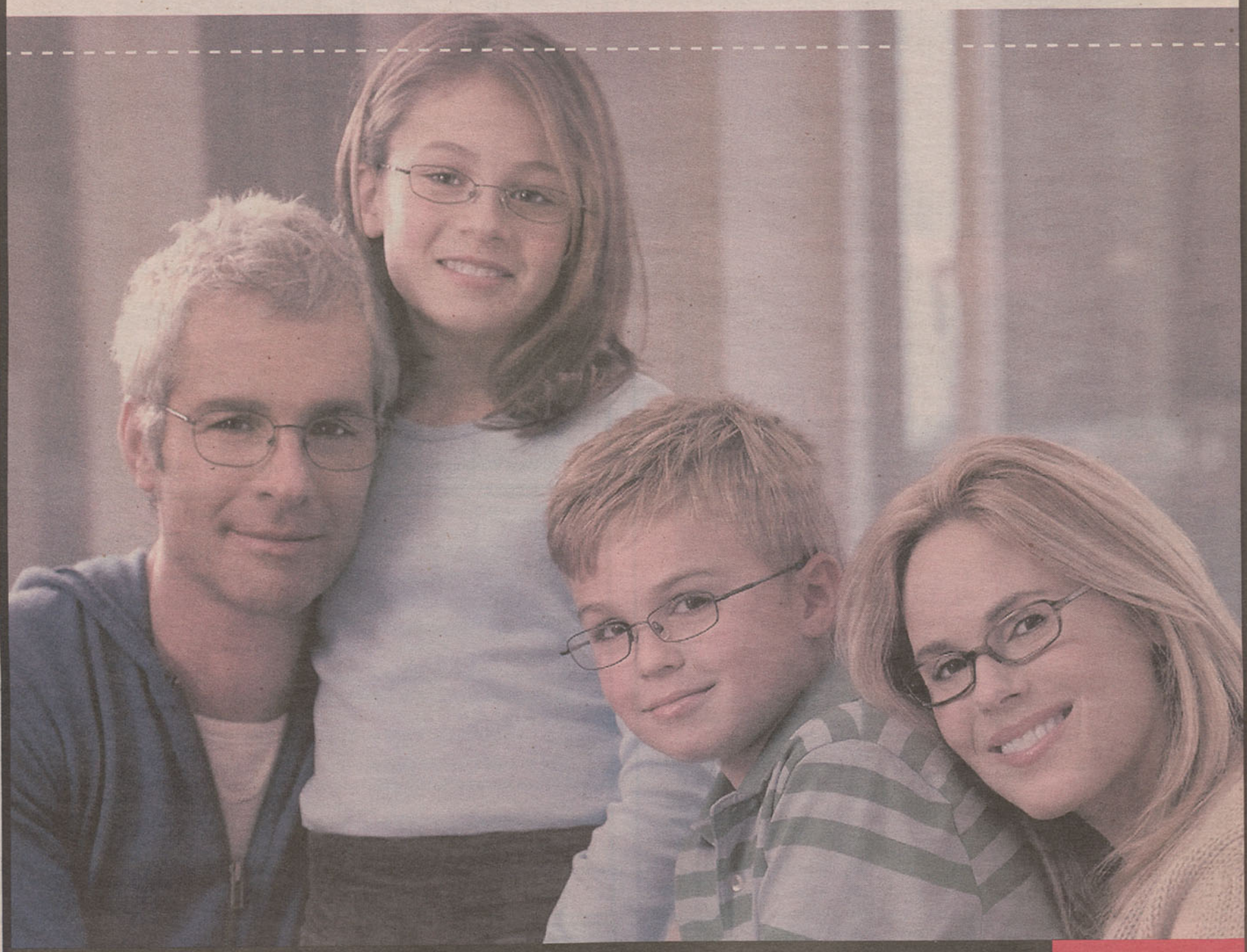
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UpFront

Hollywood on Washington: "We get three types of traffic," says the man guarding the door at 425 East Washington—"the workers, the patients, and the movie people." The workers park outside while they're building the 411 Lofts next door. The patients come to see the dwindling band of therapists who have offices in the building. And the movie people have pretty much taken over everything else.

Staffers and interns working on the new Hilary Swank movie *Betty Anne Waters*



"moved in in October," says dental technician Russ Collins. Collins has had his office on the building's second floor since 1962; now, instead of dentists and doctors, his neighbors are staffers and interns for Innocence Productions. They dress like the construction workers, in jeans and hoodies, but work in offices labeled with taped-on computer printouts: "Extras Check-In," "Production Department," "Women's Fitting Room"—the last, the building's former pharmacy. Brown paper covers the windows of the pharmacy, now a costume room. Around town, people compete to report Swank sightings—she was seen spinning on a stationary bike at Vie: Fitness & Spa!

Irony of ironies, Collins's son, also named Russ, runs the Michigan Theater. In February the younger Collins had just returned from the Sundance Film Festival, where cutting-edge films are aired. His dad now has a front-row seat for the one and only Hollywood film being produced from Ann Arbor.

The elder Collins even met the star. He was telling Innocence Productions staffers that he'd finally seen a Hilary Swank movie—*Million Dollar Baby* had been on TV the night before—when Swank herself walked up.

Bottoms up? The Washtenaw County Home Builders Association has lost about 10 percent of its membership since the real estate bubble burst. "Some felt it was a good time for retirement," says CEO Maureen Sloan. "Some left the area with their spouses who were Pfizer employees. Some of the trades [people] moved down South—of course, the South is hurting now too." Yet Sloan remains optimistic: "We think it's bottomed out."



Jim Haeussler says that at the height of the boom, his Peters Building Company was selling eighty new homes a year. But demand dropped more than 50 percent between 2005 and 2006 and since has slowed almost to a standstill. But Haeussler, too, sees "rays of hope out there."

No one needed to build when the resale market was glutted with bargains. But now, he says, the "Pfizer homes have worked through the market, and as for foreclosures, properties very attractive to purchasers—ones that don't need major renovations—those are gone in Saline and Ann Arbor." Starting around Thanksgiving, he began hearing from people who are thinking about building new homes. "We haven't turned them into sales yet," Haeussler says. "But we'll sure try."

Microclimates: If you watch the weather on Detroit TV, you might think the twenty miles between Ann Arbor and Metro Airport really put us in the deep



freeze. Reported temperatures in Ann Arbor often come in ten degrees colder, or even more, than the official Detroit reading at Metro. One morning during January's cold snap, Metro reported a temperature of 6 degrees above zero. According to the local Weather Underground website, at that same moment a thermometer at Greenhills School registered 2.3 degrees. Yet the official temperature at the Ann Arbor Airport came in at *9 below*.

Turns out that the airport represents a worst-case scenario. "The Ann Arbor Airport sensor is very poorly sited, located at a low spot (swamp) area of the airport," emails U-M weather observer Dennis Kahlbaum. "On clear, calm nights, cold air pools around the sensor, hence the very low temperature readings." Just 100 feet away, he says, temperatures may be five or more degrees Fahrenheit warmer.

"The Ann Arbor area is ripe for microclimates," Kahlbaum explains. "Areas around and north of the Huron River are hilly, while areas south are relatively flat. The hilly areas can experience all sorts of microclimates, ranging from cold-air pooling to inversion intrusion." Prevailing winds also carry heat given off by the city to the north and east. That's why areas to the south and west often get the worst of it—and why a morning walk along the Huron can sometimes chill you to the bone.

Buy it now: In early February a pair of microwave ovens at the south-side Kohl's store had inch-wide plastic badges attached to their printed price tags. In blocky LCD numerals, they announced the ovens were on sale for $64.99—a big markdown from the $99.99 price on the paper tags. What's more, for every $50 spent, the store was offering a $10 credit for future purchases. But timing is everything: the very next day, those digital tags read $79.99 and $89.99.

When a customer asked what had happened, an employee said the company sends price changes by satellite, auto-



matically updating the electronic labels. The instant increase was a sharp move on Kohl's part, since that same day the store ended a week of giving out bonus credits and began a short period for redeeming them. According to the employee, the shoe department also has quick-change digital badges. So far, most other items in the store still carry printed price tags—at more securely marked-down prices.

No offense, Fritz: Thirty years ago this fall, the U-M celebrated the 100th anniversary of its football program. In February an eBay auction offered an original



ticket to the kickoff of the centennial festivities, held September 8, 1979, in Crisler Arena. The evening included the unveiling of eighteen display cases, designed by Ann Arbor artists, that contained artifacts from a century of Michigan football, some of them dating back to the inaugural game against Racine College in 1879.

But as the online image revealed, whoever designed the ticket fumbled royally. Though former athletic director Fritz Crisler was an honored guest, the event's location appeared on the ticket as *Chrysler* Arena. And the bungling didn't stop there: no doubt confused by the recent national celebration, the designer decided that attendees were marking U-M football's *bicentennial*. The winning bidder paid $12—a bargain for a ticket that arguably could still be used at the actual 200th anniversary party in 2079. ■

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Big Stretch

Who gets to decide whether AATA goes regional? And who pays?

"We are the Ann Arbor economic region—people who live in the city and the surrounding townships," Ann Arbor Transportation Authority chair David Nacht told city council in January. Nacht, an attorney by trade, was trying to persuade skeptical council members that AATA should expand into a countywide transit authority.

Under Nacht's leadership, the AATA board has been involving itself deeply in managing the authority since longtime executive director Greg Cook was forced out two years ago. Last summer board members took a straw vote (not an official action) to become a regional authority, and Nacht says that he wants "to expand transportation dollars to whatever will bring the greatest economic development to the region."



KATIE WHITNEY

Council members were clearly unhappy with talk of a one-mill countywide transit tax—on top of the two mills Ann Arbor residents already pay for AATA.

But council members seemed more interested in problems with the existing bus service within the city. And they were clearly unhappy with what they'd heard about a proposed one-mill countywide transit tax—on top of the two mills Ann Arbor residents already pay for AATA. If the additional tax were approved, a resident with a recently purchased $200,000 house would be paying $300 a year for transit—without necessarily any improvement in service within the city.

Besides Nacht, the other big backer of a regional authority is county commissioner Jeff Irwin—who jokingly refers to himself as "an overzealous transit advocate." Irwin and Terri Blackmore, executive director of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (miwats.org), are working to sell the idea.

So far, response is mixed. "I'm not saying I won't support it but won't say I will," says chair Rolland Sizemore Jr., who represents eastern Ypsilanti Township. "We came out of the meeting with a lot of questions." Kristin Judge, the new commissioner representing Pittsfield Township, agrees that "we need a regional countywide [transit] plan"—but then adds, "I don't know that people would be ready to put money into a millage with the way the economy is."

Unless AATA gets more money, though, any expansion outside the city will necessarily reduce service inside it. That's why advocates for the disabled are already worried about the proposal—and why everyone wants to know who will control the new authority.

The current AATA board is appointed by the mayor with council's approval. While Nacht soothingly suggested that Ann Arbor would retain a majority of seats on a regional board, Irwin has talked about giving other jurisdictions a stronger voice—a prospect that troubles Ann Arbor commissioner Barbara Bergman. "A countywide transit authority makes sense," says Bergman, "but I don't like the idea of township representatives having a majority."

Council member Stephen Rapundalo told Nacht that if he expects to "raise the millage . . . on the backs of Ann Arbor taxpayers," he'd better "go back to your board and make it clear that you are on the wrong track." But the county and AATA have the power to create a countywide authority and float a millage, no matter what the city thinks about it.

Could AATA keep its existing millage if it goes countywide? Mayor John Hieftje argues it would need the city's permission, since the funds are "part of the budget approved by council." But former city attorney Bruce Laidlaw points to a 1974 lawsuit that forced the city to give back money it had taken from the AATA millage. That decision could be interpreted to mean that AATA controls the tax revenue—so long as it's spent on transit in Ann Arbor.

Birthday of the Month

A website offers celebrations for children in need.

"Our goal is to provide birthdays to children in need of a birthday surprise when they would otherwise go without this year," explains the site, annarborbirthdaysurprise.com. "We are not an organization. We are a family of three who truly care about the trials of today."



MARK BIALEK

Birthdays are "a bit of innocence for a child," says Michelle. "It's that one special day that should be their day."

It's all true: the site is the personal charity of a middle-class Ypsilanti family. The mom, thirty-three-year-old Michelle, asked that their last name not be printed, because they're "not looking for a pat on the back." So far this year they've received eighteen birthday requests they consider legitimate, and fulfilled thirteen of them.

The project began last fall, when Michelle learned that a family she knew couldn't afford a Thanksgiving meal. When she told her husband, she recalls, "he looked at me and said, 'Go to the store and get them whatever they need.' We bought everything for their dinner, including salt and pepper. They were able to live on the leftovers for two weeks."

In December they ran an ad on craigslist that offered to buy the ingredients for Christmas dinners. More than forty families responded—many, Michelle says, with heartbreaking stories of foreclosures, divorces, medical bills, and domestic assaults. But even with online offers of food donations and assistance, she was able to assist only seven families.

After a craigslist reader scolded her for helping out only during the holidays, she looked for a year-round activity, and hit on birthday parties. Why worry about birthdays, when many people lack even the basics of food and shelter? Michelle explains that when she was growing up, "I never had a good birthday because my parents couldn't afford it. . . . [Birthdays] are a bit of innocence for a child. It's that one special day that should be their day.

"A friend once said to me, 'If you have the ability to do it, you should do it.' This is something I can do and feel good about."

So far Michelle and her family have covered almost all the cash outlays themselves, but supporters who've found them through the website or their ads on craigslist have helped out with cakes and gifts—including clothes, toys, and theater tickets (contributed by Wild Swan). She says they're committed to offering the parties through 2009.

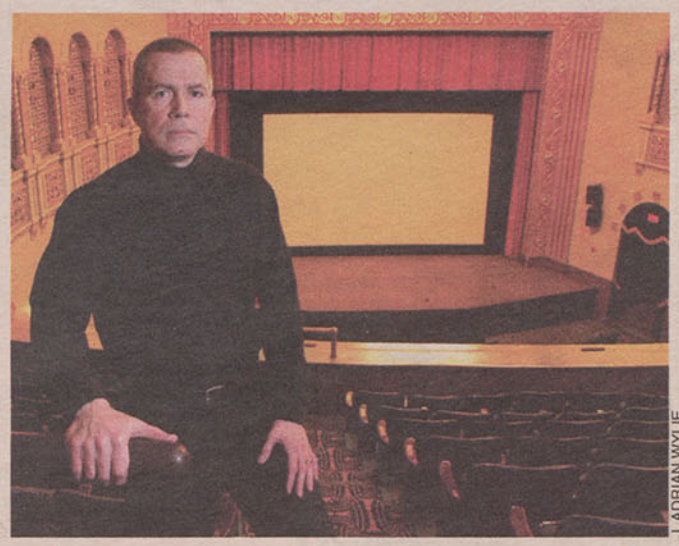
What about requests that aren't legitimate? "I give to the needy and not the greedy," Michelle replies with a chuckle. Luckily, the greedy are "pretty easy to spot: they send me a long wish list of expensive gifts. One woman asked for a Nintendo DS—forget it! I tell people not to expect much. And most parents just ask for warm clothing and a small toy for their kid."

The Last to Know

"It was the furthest thing from my mind," says former Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra development director Guy Barast.

While most local arts organizations were singing the blues to the *Ann Arbor News* late last year, Barast sounded a brighter note. Others spoke of 10 and even 20 percent deficits, but Barast said the crisis had simply "caused us to rethink things a little bit." The symphony, he said, could compensate by "programming repertoire that is in the public domain more" to save on royalties.

Two days after the story appeared, Barast learned that balancing the budget



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Faced with a projected $100,000 deficit, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra laid off fund-raiser Guy Barast.

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would take more than tweaking the programming: "I came into the office and discovered I was being laid off indefinitely."

"The irony of all of this is that the music has never been better," says Barast's former boss, AASO executive director Mary Steffek Blaske. Until last fall, its finances had likewise never been better—with an annual budget of $1 million, the symphony had ended every season in the black for fourteen years.

But in September, Steffek Blaske says, the recession "finally started hitting us. There were drops in subscriptions and single tickets for the first three concerts." And just like that, the symphony was looking at a projected deficit of $100,000.

In addition to Barast's layoff, senior staff and music director Arie Lipsky took pay cuts, and musicians agreed to forgo a scheduled pay increase—a painful concession from players already paid less than musicians in comparable orchestras in Flint and Toledo.

Steffek Blaske herself has taken over fund-raising. "It's what I started doing here, and I love doing it," she says in a hoarse voice that testifies to long hours spent talking up the symphony's importance to education and to the quality of civic life. A bloody but unbowed optimist, Steffek Blaske hopes that "five years from now, we'll all be saying 'Can you believe what we've lived through?'"

Guy Barast finds it harder to be optimistic. He says he's "got good leads, thanks to friends on the symphony board," but so far, the resumes and applications he's sent out have generated little response.

"When I heard Jenny G [Governor Granholm] is talking about eliminating funding for the arts," Barast says, "it's hard to think the bad times are going to end anytime soon."

Pets Welcome

A lost dog found a shelter at Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.

"We had the door open on a warm day, and a dog without a leash wandered into the store," recalls co-owner Gene Alloway. "He ended up curled up under the desk, resting on my knee." Alloway called the number on the animal's tag and learned that he had been running free in a park and had taken off up the street. The owner soon arrived to rescue him.

Canines are regular visitors to the Fourth Avenue bookshop, which has a Pets Welcome sign on the door. A Great Dane once stopped by (with its owner), and Alloway says a beagle named Ruby is a regular, keeping a proprietary eye on the store and giving a bark of greeting to incoming dogs.

A few doors down, at pet supply and gift store DogmaCatmantoo, "we encourage people to bring their dogs," says owner Alice Liberson. "There is no discrimination against breed, age, species, or



LINDA MCCALLUM

Many downtown businesses welcome customers' canine companions. Here, Scruffy and Charli take a break at TeaHaus on North Fourth Avenue.

encouraged to relieve themselves before entering. And unless there's a sign specifically welcoming pets, owners should always check to make sure it's okay.

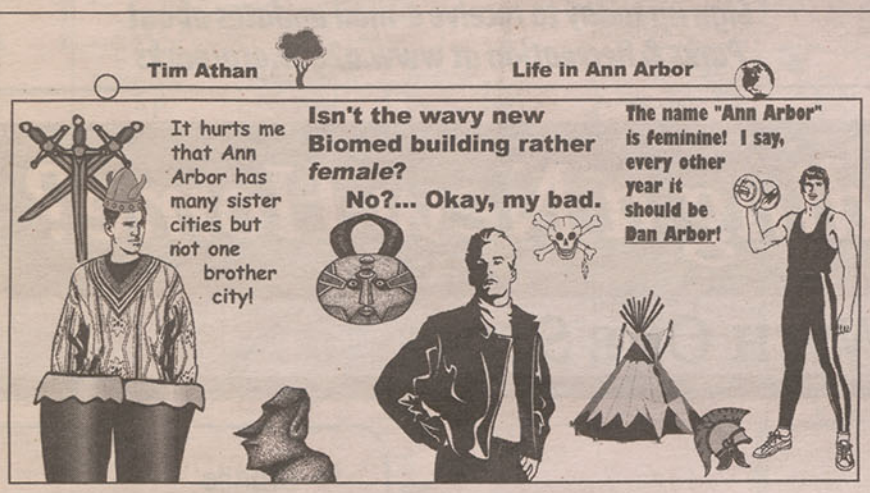
It's no surprise that dogs are welcome at the Ann Arbor Biscuit Company on South Fourth Avenue—the biscuits in question are dog biscuits. Less predictable, given the shedding issue, is the Pets Welcome sign in the window of Mitchell Gold @ Three Chairs Co. But in fact, even places that don't post signs often are pet friendly. Both Borders and Shaman Drum allow shoppers to bring their dogs indoors—as do Sam's Clothing Store, Orchid Lane, and the Footprints shoe stores on Main and South University.

At Downtown Home & Garden on Ashley, owner Mark Hodesh welcomes pets—but advises that the store's resident cat, Lewis, merely tolerates canine visitors. Small dogs get too near to Lewis at their peril.

size." Other animal visitors have included rabbits (in containers) and a leashed cat named Pants. Both Dogma and the nearby TeaHaus set out a water bowl for four-legged visitors.

Dogs also are welcome around the corner at Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts and Heavenly Metal gallery—so long as they're approved by the "Queen of the Shop," owner Vicki Honeyman's papillon. Canine visitors can check out all sections of the store—except Lucy's food dish.

At all businesses, basic rules of canine etiquette apply. Dogs are expected to be friendly and well behaved and should be



Venting at the men's group.

question corner

Q. What percentage of the ash trees in Ann Arbor affected by the emerald ash borer have been removed?

A: The city has removed 7,100 ash trees from public property. A few may have been missed, but this amounts to nearly 100 percent. The city spent $300,000 last year planting new trees and expects to spend as much again in the coming fiscal year. But even with the help of contributions from the Dean Fund, Global ReLeaf of Michigan, and the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor, it will be years before all the trees are replaced: before the epidemic, ashes accounted for almost one in five of Ann Arbor's street trees.

Q. What's the story on the mural on the Community High School fence on Fifth Avenue, and the two large banners on the building itself?

A. The mural, a brightly painted mash-up of Ann Arbor landmarks, was a joint project of Community High students and Angell School fifth-graders. It was funded by a grant from the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation's Eleanora Bihler Dahlmann fund.

Each of the two-story-tall banners features a photograph of the school's entrance with the text "Community High" dancing about it. They were created by CHS students and staff from a design by current senior Ansted Moss.

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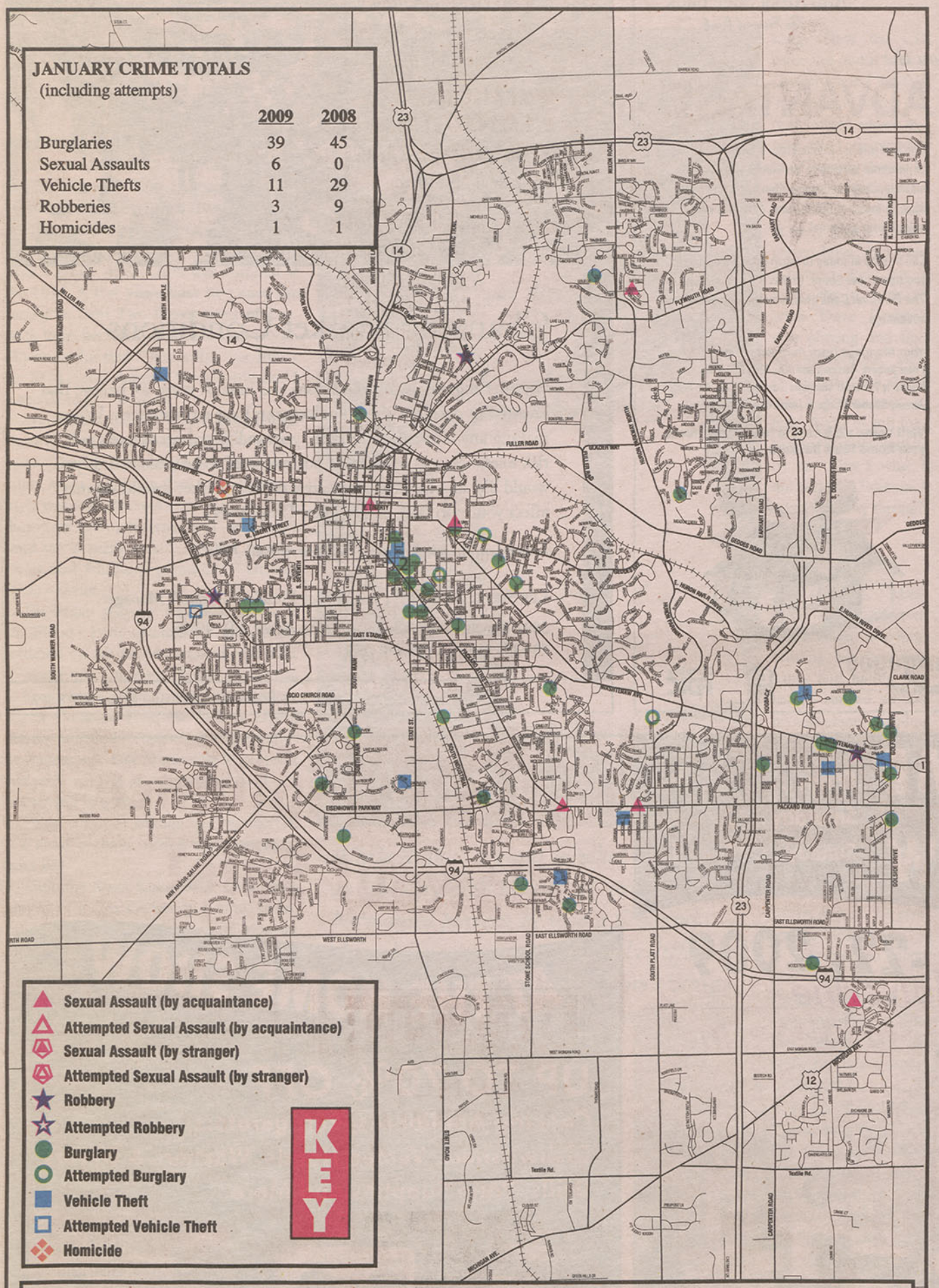
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CrimeMap



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If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus, or 944–1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911).**

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Peter Madcat Ruth

Harmonic convergence

In 1968, when Peter Madcat Ruth was nineteen, he met Chris Brubeck, son of jazz immortal Dave Brubeck, at a jam session at a friend's house. The chance encounter jump-started his music career. He began playing harmonica with Chris Brubeck's group when Chris was enrolled at the U-M. A few years later he joined the family in their Two Generations of Brubeck tour, performing all over the world. "I was on this rush," he recalls, "recording for RCA, for Columbia, for Atlantic, and I was still in my twenties."

And then it ended: "When I started with Dave Brubeck, there were eleven of us onstage. Then it cut back to ten, then nine, eight, seven, six, then five, and I was still in. It was four Brubecks and myself. Then they went to South Africa and they didn't send me a plane ticket. I asked myself, 'Well, now what am I gonna do?'" He was twenty-seven.

He began playing solo folk shows at Mr. Flood's Party and the Ark, and briefly soldered circuit boards until he was able to hustle up more gigs. "It was so strange to be playing at Flood's after already playing at Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and Bellas Artes in Mexico City," he remembers. But "I was able to accept it and move on," he says, matter-of-factly. "I got myself in gear.

"The world is strange, yet wonderful. It's great to have varied experiences in your life."

Guitarist Shari Kane, with whom he's played in a duo for nearly twenty years, says this attitude is quintessential Madcat: "Whatever happens on the road—even if a gig was a total disaster—he'll find the one good moment in it."

Chicago born and raised, he first picked up the ukulele and then the guitar, playing the folk songs of the Kingston Trio and Peter, Paul, and Mary. At fifteen, though, he heard blues harmonica giant Sonny Terry on the radio, and he was hooked.

He got a harmonica and began trying to teach himself to sound like Terry. He quickly mastered the rapid in-and-out breathing technique needed for the instrument and took three lessons from a legendary Chicago blues harp player, Big Walter Horton. So intimidating a figure was Horton that Ruth took six months to work up the courage to approach him, and then six more months went by after each lesson. They're the only lessons Ruth's ever had on the instrument, but, as he says with a laugh, "they were good ones."

Along the way he picked up the nickname Madcat, echoing the vivid monikers of his blues heroes—Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Lightnin' Hopkins, Pinetop Perkins, T-Bone Walker. "By my senior year in high school," he recalls, "all I wanted to do was play guitar and harmonica."



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

While Ruth is a giant in what he describes as "the tiny little world" of professional harmonica players, he won a Grammy Award for something completely different: singing on composer Bill Bolcom's Songs of Innocence and of Experience.

He still regularly performs with Chris Brubeck, and he has toured on his own and with many musicians and bands all over the world. But while he's a giant in what he describes as the "tiny little world" of professional harmonica players, he won a Grammy Award for something completely different. It happened when Ann Arbor–based, Pulitzer-winning composer William Bolcom invited him to participate in a recording of Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, inspired by William Blake. Madcat just assumed he'd be playing harmonica. "And then I get there and Bolcom says, 'I want you to sing.'" There were eleven featured vocalists in the huge production, and the others were all classically trained.

"I said to him, 'I think you're making a mistake,'" Madcat chuckles. "'No,' Bolcom said, 'I want an authentic folkie voice on this one song'—it was like a cowboy song. Then the CD came out and it won a Grammy and I got this document, which is now framed and on my wall, that I am awarded this Grammy Award in classical music!

"I don't read music at more than a kindergarten level. But then I have a good ear. I was able to listen to what Dave Brubeck was playing and find an appropriate part. He didn't mind that I didn't know how to read. And I'm still faking my way through it, by ear. That's what I did with Bill Bolcom. I faked my way through it by ear."

In concert, Madcat strides all over the stage, swaying, bending, his shoulders rising and falling, his hands, cupped around his instrument, opening and closing like wings propelling the soaring, wailing notes coming from his harp. He is trim and athletic, and his blond hair is still as long as when he was in rock bands in the 1970s, though it's now streaked with gray.

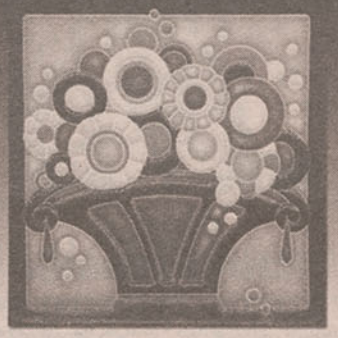
"He puts so much into every gig," says Connie, his wife of thirty-seven years. "The day before, he's already in his gig mindset. The next day, he's whipped."

In sharp contrast to his hard-driving stage persona, his offstage manner is what his daughter, Mollie, a Community High senior, describes as "easygoing. I don't think he's ever been really mad at me."

April 2, 2009, his sixtieth birthday, has been officially declared Peter Madcat Ruth Day in Ann Arbor. That night Madcat will host his own birthday party onstage at the Ark. As the icing on the cake, the Hering Harmonica Company will produce a Madcat model harp.

Retirement isn't in the picture for Madcat, who approaches his milestone birthday with characteristic equanimity. "I've established a persona as the elder statesman in the harmonica world," he says. "There are fewer and fewer elder statesmen—they've started dying out. I have a niche."

—Sandor Slomovits

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The view from International Neighbors



COURTESY INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBORS

Guests once modeled national outfits in an annual fashion show. Now they join interest groups in hiking, knitting, and cooking—and discuss the surprises of American life.

"What has surprised you most about life in Ann Arbor?" I ask the women gathered in a small, drab classroom on North Campus.

"The man next door mowed his lawn without his shirt!" exclaims a young Japanese woman in dark pants and a fitted white shirt. The others—from Japan, Korea, Israel, Chile, Venezuela, Uruguay, and China—laugh, and several nod in agreement.

For the last five years, I have led a "conversation group" for International Neighbors, a group of volunteers who welcome women from other countries to Ann Arbor. Most of our "guests" are here because their husbands are studying at the U-M or have a job in the area. And they find a few things about American life surprising.

"The portions at the restaurants are so large," another woman says. This time, everyone nods in recognition.

"Workmen come into my house with dirty shoes," complains a young Japanese mother. Back home, they would either remove their shoes or cover them.

"My son says that Japanese lunch is so different. He wants American lunch for school," another mother shares. This leads to an animated discussion about what constitutes a Japanese lunch, what a typical American lunch is, and what others eat for lunch.

Back to surprises: "In the grocery store," says one guest, "people eat the food before they have paid for it."

The woman from Israel laughs and says that none of these things surprises her: "That is the way it is in Israel, especially eating in the grocery store. We do that!"

International Neighbors has operated for fifty years without an office or a telephone. Most of the women in my group are quite independent—they speak English well, have studied American customs, and drive cars. But longtime members tell me things were very different when the group was formed. Back then, foreign women were often isolated and lonely; most spoke little English and did not drive. Six women attended the first tea party. For the second, the guest list grew to seventy.

Win Pierce, an early "hostess," had been the wife of a foreign student herself: though she spoke little French, she'd spent a year in France when her husband, Roy, was a graduate student at Cornell. She could easily identify with the women here in Ann Arbor—far from family, with limited language skills and few friends. Many other volunteers either experienced hospitality when they lived in another country, or wished for some friendly attention in a foreign situation.

Most guests soon move on, but those who stay often become hostesses themselves. Helga Schacht came to Ann Arbor from Germany in 1969. "A few days after our arrival a very friendly Italian woman from International Neighbors, Ernestina Parravano, came to take me shopping," she remembers. "At the A&P supermarket she explained the many varieties of cereals and other prepared foods to me, and I still remember her recommendation of Quaker oatmeal. She took me to a tea group meeting, and life from then on was wonderful—getting to know so many interesting American and foreign women." Not only did Helga become a hostess, she was president of the organization from 2003 to 2005.

Currently there are about 450 guests from sixty-three countries and about 350 hostesses. Though we still call our get-togethers "teas," many guests now prefer coffee. Collecting stamps, once a popular activity, has gone the way of snail mail. But women still sign up for interest groups in hiking, painting, knitting, quilting, and, of course, cooking.

Besides the women's greater independence and their use of email, longtime hostess Alice Chambers points to one other major change: tea group leaders once had to draw maps to help members find their homes; now guests make their own maps online—or just use GPS.

—Dale Magee

Suburban Syrup

Gallon 90,001

When my eldest son was a year old, I would put him on the back of my bike and ride the two miles to Sugarbush Park. Between Green and Nixon Roads, Sugarbush is two beautiful, hilly open spaces bordered by thick woods filled with maple trees. The park was once the site of the sugaring shack on the Bolgos family's 100-year-old dairy farm.

The family sold the park site to the city in the 1960s, but Michigan's sugar maples still turn out 90,000 gallons of syrup per year. Counting our house, it's 90,001 gallons.

We have six sugar maples clustered in our backyard, five of which have trunks thick enough to tap. We have five metal spouts, five buckets, a ten-gallon stockpot for boiling down the sap, and a candy thermometer. The sap becomes syrup when it is boiled to 219 degrees. At this temperature it foams up and thickens slightly, a sure sign it's ready to be filtered and bottled.

Most years we've collected one to two gallons of sap each day in March. The sugar content of sap averages 2 percent; it takes about forty-three gallons of sap to get one gallon of syrup. We normally end up with one pint of syrup per tree. But last year, when we had a record eighty-five inches of snow in Ann Arbor, our production doubled. The more melting snow, the more groundwater, and that means more sap—and, promisingly, even the winter after a snowy winter is usually a good season.

When we spot ants in the sap, the end is in sight. Once the low temperatures are consistently above freezing, the sap will stop running. We'll pull the spouts, wash the buckets and gallon storage jars, and put it all away until next year. Somewhat miraculously, the trees heal, so that you have to look very closely the next year to find where the tree was tapped.

In Quebec and northern New England, hot maple syrup is poured over shaved ice or packed snow, and the result is incredibly sweet and delicious maple taffy. We tried to make maple taffy here, but the syrup ran instead of hardening. We had not boiled the sap to a high enough temperature—hotter than maple syrup but not to the point of no return, where it becomes maple butter or maple sugar. Mind you, we gobbled up the syrup-drenched snow. It would have been sheer madness to have chucked it out.

After this experience, we were left last winter with nine pints of Grade A Light Amber and Grade A Medium Amber maple syrup—or, as we call it, Suburban Syrup. One day both my sons took small jars of sap, partially boiled sap, and finished syrup into school to show in class. It's an amazing transformation, and I knew exactly how the boys' classmates would react. How, they asked, can that clear stuff that looks exactly like water and smells like a tree ever turn into that amber-colored, thick stuff that is so strongly scented of sweetness and maple?

I ask the same question myself every year as I pour Suburban Syrup over my pancakes.

—Patricia Lesko

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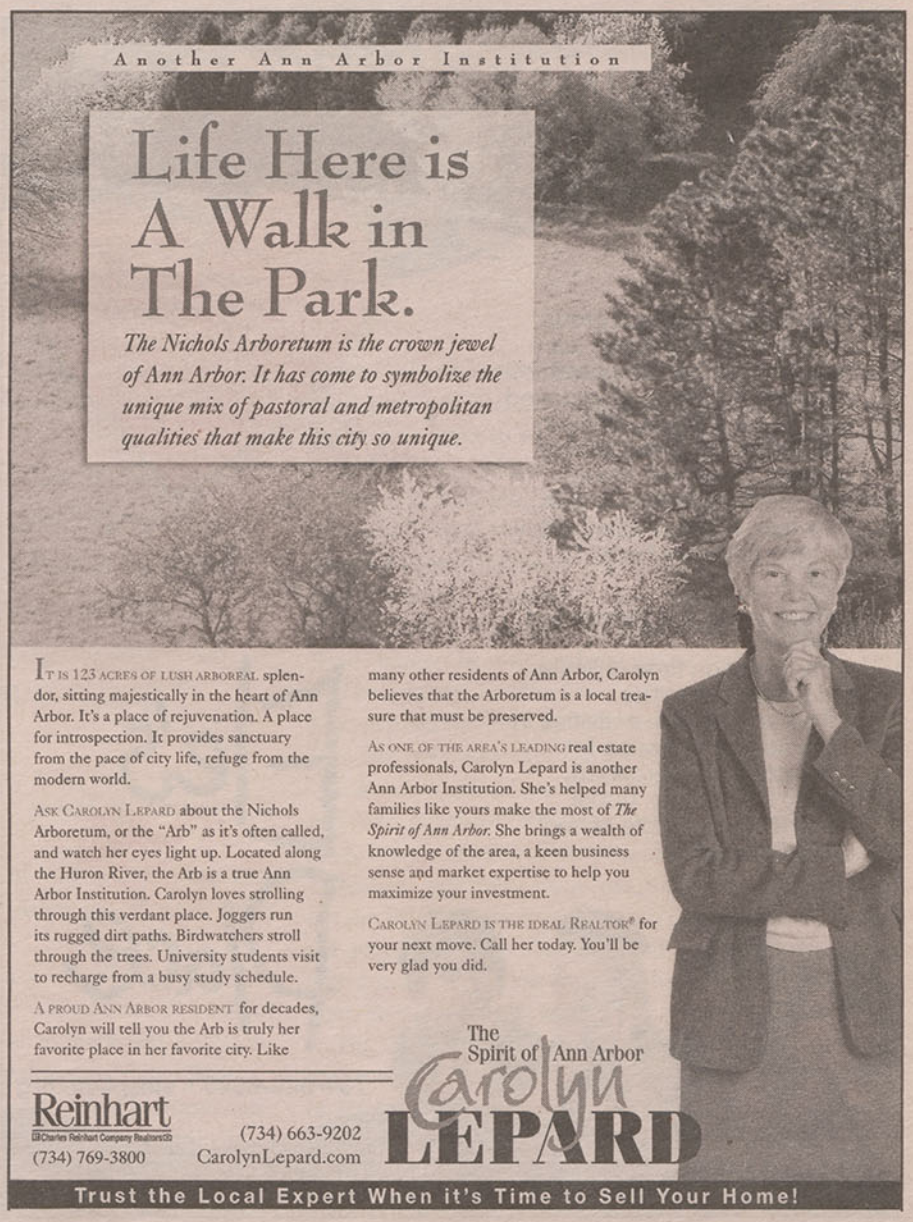
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by Eve Silberman

Sandy Rupp's Challenge

The United Way struggles with life after Pfizer.



MARK BIALEK

United Way director Sandy Rupp confronts a $2 million drop in donations–just when the need for help is soaring.

"My heart just went to my toes," says Sandy Rupp. The date was January 22, 2007, and she'd gotten word that Pfizer was closing its Ann Arbor labs. The year before, the pharmaceutical giant and its 2,100 staffers had donated $2 million to Rupp's agency, the United Way of Washtenaw County—a quarter of its revenue.

Some Pfizer employees themselves instantly understood that the closing would devastate the organization that helps fund thirty-five local nonprofits. Rupp, obviously touched, recalls how one gasped, "But what will happen to United Way?"

Answering that question is Sandy Rupp's challenge. An energetic United Way careerist, she says she's "retirement age" but came here four years ago because she wanted "one last launch." Small and trim, Rupp always looks for the positive, but she doesn't sugarcoat. Asked last fall what she expected from the ongoing fund-raising campaign, she replied, "My anticipation is that it will still be pretty grim."

It was worse than grim. In late January, United Way held its annual "community celebration" at EMU's student center. Though a band played and a hip-looking master of ceremonies boomed out the group's slogan, "Live United," the atmosphere was subdued. County administrator Bob Guenzel, the campaign's volunteer chair, was almost terse as he announced that the campaign was projected to raise $5.1 million—$1 million less than the previous year, and more than $2 million below 2006's total. And as meager as it seemed, in the current economy even $5.1 million was a stretch. To get there, Guenzel warned, "we need to raise [another] $350,000."

The applause was brief. When a follow-up speaker announced "These are tough times," heads nodded in unison. Because even as the number of people able to donate to United Way is falling, the number needing help continues to grow.

Just in the last six months, demand for services has jumped 25 percent at the Delonis Center homeless shelter. In the same period, Peace Neighborhood Center, another United Way agency, has seen "an incredible upturn in 'advocacy' calls—rental assistance, housing," says development director Kevin Lill.

"Everyone's scared," says Larry Voight, director of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County. CSS got $282,000 from United Way last year, using the money to help fund everything from a food bank to adult day care. CSS staffer Caroline Nelson does intake for people seeking psychotherapy, most of whom have lost their jobs. "I'm going to say out of ten phone calls a day, I probably have one to two that are crying," Nelson says. "It is heartbreaking."

"Everyone's scared," says Larry Voight, director of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County. CSS got $282,000 from United Way last year, using the money to help fund everything from a food bank to adult day care. CSS staffer Caroline Nelson does intake for people seeking psychotherapy, most of whom have lost their jobs. "I'm going to say out of ten phone calls a day, I probably have one or two that are crying," Nelson says. "It is heartbreaking."

Rupp started work on December 1, 2004. "It was supposed be January of '05," she recalls, "but I got to town and they said, 'Show up for work—it's time to get to work!'"

United Way's previous permanent director, Jim Cieslar, had left a year before—partly to be near family members in the East, but also because of growing tensions with the agency's board of directors. Cieslar, who now lives in Massachusetts, says that he wanted the agency to take a stronger lead in determining how donations were used but that the board was dragging its feet.

Making that change would instead fall to Rupp—whom Cieslar describes as a "well-respected pro" in the United Way world. Her first job with the agency was in her hometown of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Before coming here she ran chapters in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Lincoln, Nebraska, where she also picked up a master's in management.

Widowed and the mother of two grown daughters, Rupp dove right into the Ann Arbor job. But the water was colder than she'd expected.

To get to know the community, "I had a goal to make ninety calls in ninety days," she remembers. "It took me ten or twelve calls to really realize there was a trust issue—a lot of things had happened to this United Way."

Like all United Way chapters, Ann Arbor had been tainted by the Bill Aramony scandal. Head of the national United Way for more than twenty years, Aramony led the organization through a period of significant growth—but also siphoned off hundreds of thousands of dollars to finance personal pleasures, including a luxury apartment for a teenage mistress. In 1995 he was convicted of fraud and sentenced to seven years in prison.

The following year the *Ann Arbor News* broke the story that local United Way president Vince Buccirosso also had diverted agency funds to personal expenses. Nine days later Buccirosso resigned, walking out in the middle of a board meeting. Ultimately he pleaded no contest to three fraud charges; he was fined and put on probation.

The amount involved was less than $5,000, but the *News* played the story for all it was worth and then some. That fall, donations dropped by 10 percent.

The board moved quickly to improve financial controls and slash overhead: within two years, Jim Cieslar cut the payroll from twenty-seven people to fifteen. But though collections gradually recovered, many donors never forgot the incident—as Rupp discovered when she made her get-acquainted calls. One nonprofit employee recalls the new director saying she "couldn't believe" that eight years later, people were still talking about Vince Buccirosso.

But they were—and their wariness was evident in how they were giving: of the $7.9 million the campaign raised in 2004, 48 percent was designated to go to specific nonprofits. Put another way, almost half of United Way's donors didn't trust the agency to decide how best to use their money.

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Sandy Rupp's Challenge

One nonprofit director compares UWWC to a three-legged stool: for years, its biggest donations came from the automotive industry, Pfizer, and the U-M. But that stool was wobbling even before Pfizer pulled out.

The first leg to go was the car companies. In 2001 automakers and suppliers raised $2.1 million for UWWC. By last year the total was just $600,000—a 71 percent drop.

Rupp made changes, large and small. She introduced Power of the Purse, an all-women's appeal, and started the Caring Club, which rewards donors who give at least $156 a year with discount cards to local businesses. U-M interns added online giving options to the website, and she made sure everyone contributing to the United Way received a timely acknowledgment—an area in which it had sometimes been lax.

At first, though, her biggest changes

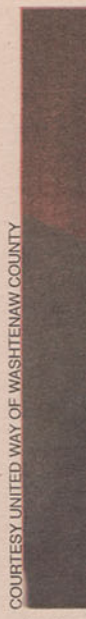
To fund new priorities, United Way cut some existing allocations. "There were knock-down, drag-out fights—people screaming at each other," says a source close to the committee.

were behind the scenes. She slashed the size of the group's board of directors. And then she pushed them to tackle the challenge that had eluded them under Jim Cieslar: how to take a more proactive role in identifying and addressing community needs.

Historically, United Way had funded the same organizations year after year—a relationship so close that agencies even shared space in United Way offices. But according to Steve Dobson, he and other supporters had long felt that the organization needed to look harder at its priorities. He could never understand, he recalls, why a local charity was donating to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, a national group focused on a rare neuromuscular disorder.

The national United Way was also pushing chapters to change. With a mission of "mobilizing our communities to improve people's lives," it has set out three priorities for funding: fighting poverty, improving health, and keeping kids in school. According to a recent article in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, many local United Ways have adopted similar, targeted approaches—and have seen donations increase by an average of 25 percent.

Campaign chair Bob Guenzel emphasizes that the reorganization is meant to get donors thinking in terms of *needs*. "You're



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COURTESY UNITED WAY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

United Way's greatest potential for growth could come from the U-M. In 2007, U-M president Mary Sue Coleman cochaired the campaign with McKinley's Albert Berriz—and donations from university staffers hit an all-time high.

not just giving to an agency but to help the community," he stresses.

The change became more urgent when the Pfizer news hit—knocking out the second leg of the "stool." Rupp remembers asking her executive committee, "'Are we gonna close shop here, or are we gonna go forward?' And from that, we convened the group that selected the basic needs that were funded in that '06 campaign—that was food, shelter, and access to medical care."

With the pool of donations shrinking, though, funding those new priorities would have to come at the expense of existing agencies. "There were knock-down, drag-out fights—people screaming at each other," says a source close to the committee. The needs list was later expanded to include early childhood education and aging in place, and a grant fund was set up to ease the transition for agencies that were shut out.

Under the new system, ten groups gained funding, including Arbor Hospice, Packard Community Clinic, and several agencies that support early childhood education and literacy. The losers included "disease groups" like the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation. More controversially, the new focus on young children meant less for agencies targeting older "youth at risk," including the Washtenaw Camp Placement Association and the Community Action Network, which runs after-school programs for children in low-income housing projects.

"'Youth at risk' has been lost as a priority," lamented CAN executive director Joan Doughty in an op-ed article in the *Ann Arbor News* last spring. "Youth service providers can no longer 'go at it' alone." CAN subsequently won a reprieve through United Way's grants program—which may be why Doughty now declines to air any grievances with the agency publicly.

Rupp's office on Platt Road has just enough room for her desk and a small round table with four chairs. The few personal touches include a certificate celebrating twenty-five years with United Way (she's now on her thirtieth) and a photo of her Bichon Frisé, Tootsie.

Next door, a feathery red boa hangs outside staffer Angelina Semak's office. Rupp explains that it signifies good news: yesterday, local Google boss Grady Burnett called Semak to tell her that the search giant will be sending volunteers to UWWC's Day of Caring in April.

Down the hall, another boa celebrates a call from Thomson Reuters Tax & Accounting. The Avis Farms office was too busy at year's end to take part in the traditional fall fund drive—but will make up for it now with an "off-season" campaign. "This could be one of those gap fillers," says Rupp, referring to the hundreds of thousands of dollars United Way still hopes to raise. "It's a great company, stepping forward."

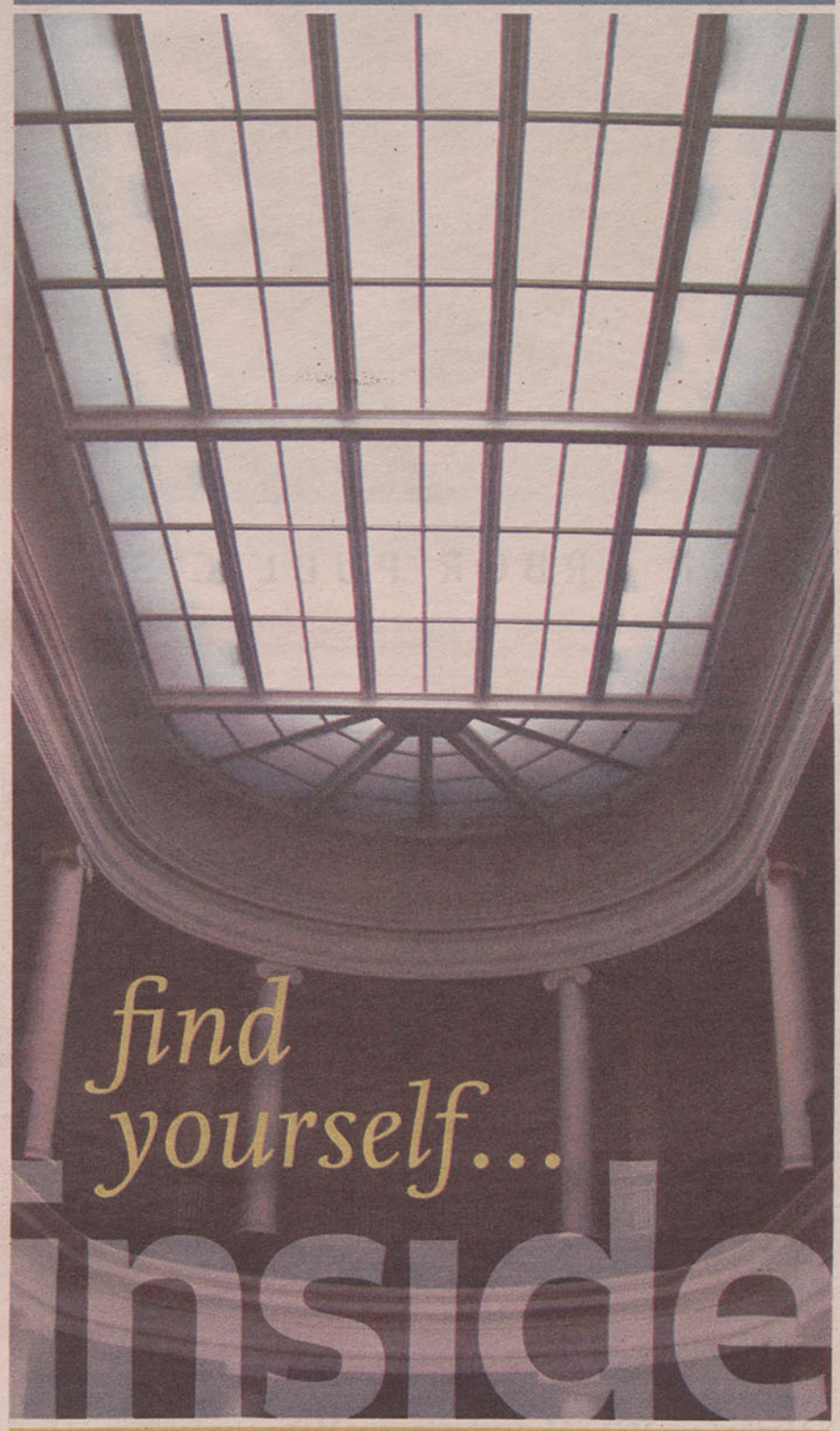
Rupp responds to criticism of her leadership with composure, the toughness camouflaged by a frequently flashing smile. She points out that while "youth at risk" are no longer funded as such, older children benefit from many other UWWC programs, such as housing and health care. "Is it a perfect system?" she asks rhetorically. "No. And we always said that—it's a work in process." But she points out that whereas before almost half of all donations were designated to specific agencies, two-thirds now are unrestricted gifts to the Community Investment Fund—a change she sees as a vote of confidence in the new allocation process.

With Pfizer gone and the auto industry weakening by the day, every new donor is a triumph. Last year, Rupp says, the agency launched campaigns in thirty-one workplaces. But she believes the greatest potential for growth lies in a familiar quarter.

She notes that in 2007, when U-M president Mary Sue Coleman cochaired the campaign, donations from university staffers topped $1.1 million—an all-time record. "If every employee gave five dollars a month, what could we raise?" she muses. "You can dream sometimes.

"Our best hope," she adds, "is that the U of M fills the Pfizer building with lots of scientists." ■

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SPECIAL DELIVERIES

by J. Christopher Hippler

Mail carriers, neighborhoods, and the ties that bind

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But what do our neighborhoods look like to the workers who walk the routes? And who are the people beneath those powder blue uniforms?



MARK BIALEK

Even with fair-weather shortcuts, Mike Bellaire figures he walks eight and a half miles a day on his route off Plymouth Road. When the snow piles up, it's closer to twelve.

Walking in the land of Oz

Ozzie Williams may have the toughest mail route in Ann Arbor: off-campus student housing. Wedged between State Street, Packard, and Hill and in the shadow of the U-M Law School, his route is a hodgepodge—fraternities, sororities, 1960s-style apartment complexes, older homes now chopped up into apartments. Most of the residents move out at the end of the school year in April, to be replaced by new faces each fall.

"I almost quit when I first got the job," Williams remembers with a chuckle. "I didn't know all of the details it included. I thought you just picked the mail up and went. It's not like that."



MARK BIALEK

"Everybody knows me, and I know everybody," says Ozzie Williams with a grin. To keep on top of his campus route, he learns hundreds of new names each year.

Williams learned he had to sort the mail on his route and forward or return material addressed to residents who've long since moved on. On this route, that means learning hundreds of new names annually. But Williams has grown to love it.

"The main thing I have," he says, "is a great memory."

Williams, who just turned fifty, lives in Detroit with his wife, Susan; they have two grown sons. He's carried the mail in Ann Arbor ever since he got out of the service in 1986. On this bitterly cold winter day, he's wearing four layers of clothes under his Postal Service jacket and sweatpants beneath his blue uniform pants. Lined nonslip boots and a Yukon hat with a USPS eagle emblem on the front panel complete the ensemble. With the winter sun glistening off his small gold earring, Williams walks with a quiet confidence.

Student neighborhoods are notorious for unshoveled sidewalks. Today Williams skips a house whose steep front walk is covered with ice. "I warned 'em yesterday: if you want your mail, you have to shovel the walk," he says.

Despite his hard line on shoveling, Williams's easygoing style and quick "How y'all doin'?" make him popular in the neighborhood. "This is the land of Oz," he says with a grin. "Everybody knows me, and I know everybody."

He says the route is totally different in other seasons: "The guys are throwing the ball; girls are out lying on the grass . . . and game days are wild!

"In about five years, I'll have thirty years in," Williams says, "and that's a good thing. I'll probably stay one or two years after that. Hopefully I'll be the one to call it a day."

Where even dogs are well served

"I'm a dog lover," Dave Smeton says. "Always have been."

At a house on Lincoln, Smeton lifts the lid of the mailbox, drops the mail in—and then, as the lid lowers, deftly places a small dog biscuit on top of it.

Does he do that every day?

"During the winter I try to," he says. "I don't see Roxie as much; I want her to know I'm thinking of her."

Smeton is soft spoken with a friendly face, full mustache, and large brown eyes. He started carrying mail about fifteen years ago, after a three-year hitch in the military. For the last six years he's been on this route on the north side of Burns Park. Houses range from stately single-family homes on Lincoln to large fraternity houses on Oxford to run-down student rentals on Cambridge Court.

"My route turns over quite a bit—a lot of new families. When a new baby arrives, you can't help but be touched. Before you know it," Dave Smeton jokes, "I'll see the kid's credit card application!"

"My route turns over quite a bit—a lot of new families. When a new baby arrives, you can't help but be touched. Before you know it," Smeton jokes, "I'll see the kid's credit card application!"

Born and raised in Ypsilanti, he and his wife, Cathy, have two children themselves, one at home and one in college.

As Smeton reaches to deliver the mail to a house on Olivia, the door opens suddenly and a woman appears.

"Hello!"

"Oh, hey, Suzie, how ya doing?" He notices she's on crutches. "Oh my goodness . . ."

"Surgery. I'm stuck here—can't drive. How was your Christmas?"

"It was fine; I don't want to keep you . . ."

"I just wanted to say hi because I haven't seen you in a while."

Smeton introduces me, and I tell her about the story I'm working on. She breaks into a warm smile. "Oh, we adore our mail carrier," she says. "He knows everything that goes on in the neighborhood. He never lets on . . . but you know he knows it all!"

Smeton looks embarrassed. "People are very thoughtful," he says as we walk away.

He always wears a distinctive pith helmet, so "my customers can tell it's me doing the route." On cold days like today, he adds a knit cap beneath it. He holds a fistful of letters in his gloved left hand. His right hand is bare, and he keeps it buried in the mailbag for warmth. That makes it easier to grab magazines, parcels—and small dog biscuits.

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SPECIAL DELIVERIES

Taking care of business on State Street

Walking with John Odegard as he delivers mail on State Street near Central Campus is like seeing the street for the first time. I see stairs leading to hidden second-floor apartments, enter stores I'd never noticed, and watch the faces of storekeepers light up as the mailman walks in.

The long hours and daily pressures of running a store are not lost on Odegard. "We try to help make their life a little easier," he says. "If they have boxes that need to go out, after I'm done I'll pick 'em up so they don't have to go to the post office."

Yet Odegard is on this route only one day a week. In postal vernacular, he's a carrier technician. "I cover five other carriers' routes on their days off," he explains. "Some people like to do the same thing; I like variety."

His dad was a mail carrier in Ypsilanti for thirty-one years. But "I wasn't expecting to do this," Odegard says. "I graduated from Ypsi High in '90, moved away for a while, then came full circle." He and his "beautiful wife," Jessica, live in Ypsilanti and look forward to having a family.

At the Corner House Apartments, Odegard swings open a three-foot-wide aluminum door to expose dozens of small square mailboxes. As he fills them, a woman interrupts.

"Is it all right if I grab my mail? I've been out of town. Wow, there's a lot in there!"

"Well, welcome back."

"Thank you. I'm really sorry."

"It's all right—it didn't get full. Do you want a rubber band?"

"That would be fantastic! Have a good day."



MARK BIALEK

As a carrier technician, John Odegard fills in for other carriers on their days off. As a union steward, he hears them worry about the Postal Service's growing losses. "People are fearful of losing their jobs," he says.



MARK BIALEK

Dave Smeton wears a glove on the hand that spends most of its time outdoors, and leaves the other bare—the better to rummage in his bag for magazines, parcels, and the dog biscuits he leaves for lucky Burns Park canines.

"You too!"

Odegard is also a union steward for the National Association of Letter Carriers. Under the current contract, carriers earn from around $20 to just over $26 an hour, plus benefits. Overtime is time and a half and is closely watched.

The postal service's mounting losses are causing anxiety among carriers, and Odegard hears about it. "People are fearful of losing their jobs," he says.

Temporary and contract employees are the most vulnerable, but carriers with seniority are uneasy too. "What's safe?" Odegard wonders. "I feel more comfortable than a cat who's been here just a couple of years, but that doesn't mean they couldn't slash our wages, or affect how much health care we pay for."

Odegard pauses and reflects, "All I know is that here in Ann Arbor, we're delivering mail." He motions toward the letters and parcels that fill his truck. "And I've got a lot of mail to deliver."

328 houses filled with friends

On a summer Saturday afternoon several years ago, an unexpected event made Mike Bellaire realize how much of a fixture he's become in the Orchard Hills neighborhood.

"I was walking up the sidewalk and a family was taking wedding pictures on the front lawn. They said, 'C'mon, Mike—we want you in a picture,'" he remembers with a laugh. "I said, 'You don't need your mailman in your wedding pictures!'"

Though he passed on the photo op, it was a poignant moment: he'd been delivering mail to the bride's home since she was eight years old.

All the carriers I followed walk at a brisk pace, but Bellaire is the fastest, despite his small stature and extra weight. And the route he's walked since 1988 isn't short: "When the weather's good, my route's about eight and a half miles. I've clocked it. When the snow's like this"—he points to a two-foot-high snowbank—"I figure it's closer to twelve."

His route is across Plymouth from the former Pfizer complex. The 1970s-vintage homes vary in style but have common features: brick-and-aluminum exteriors, attached garages, fake shutters on the windows, and—in the winter—sleds on the porches and snow angels in the yards.

"The neighborhood has changed a bit with Pfizer closing. I had a few people move out. But we have a lot of U-M hospital employees and quite a few retirees. There have always been a lot of kids in the neighborhood."

Before joining the post office, "I was a dogcatcher for the City of Detroit," Bellaire recalls. "At the time there was a residency requirement. My kids were little, and we were leery about having them outside playing." His two boys are grown now, and he and his wife, Sue, live in Plymouth.

Carrying mail to the same neighborhood has given Bellaire unexpected insights. "I learn a whole lot of things that they don't know I know," he says. "You see the deaths, the new families move in, the elderly move away, because all of a sudden it's just one lady living by herself and she's in her early eighties."

With twenty-four years of service in the post office, Bellaire will be eligible to retire in six years. "I figure I'll finish on this route," he says. "I know everybody; I've got three hundred and twenty-eight houses' worth of friends." ■

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AGUE IN ANN ARBOR



When malaria was a menace

by Laura Bien

Don't go to Michigan, land of ills;
Thenamemeansague,fever,andchills.

—Popular nineteenth-century saying

In September 1824 a twenty-year-old Irish immigrant, Walter Oakman, bought 123 acres of land near Ypsilanti. Thirteen days later he died of malaria. His was the first death recorded in Washtenaw County.

In 1829, according to the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Washtenaw County, Michigan,* schoolboy Daniel Hiscock helped his family clear land for a farm northwest of Ann Arbor. According to the Album, Hiscock "assisted his father in clearing the farm, grubbing stumps for other people, and drove a team comprising four yoke of cattle, at the same time shaking like a leaf with the ague."

In 1831 Pennsylvania immigrant John Ansley collapsed on the side of the road to Ann Arbor. "We had not accomplished more than half our journey," his wife, Philena, later wrote, "when my husband was taken with the fever and ague, and was obliged to lie down by the roadside and wait the approach of some person with a team, or until he should be able to proceed on foot."

The disease the settlers called "the ague" ("aig-yew"; from the Latin *febris acuta,* "sharp fever") is one of the oldest known human plagues, described by Herodotus. It's now known as malaria—and it still afflicts up to half a billion people worldwide. Though now largely confined to the tropics, in the infant United States malaria was common as far north as New England. Endemic in then-swampy Michigan, it was a leading sickness in nineteenth-century Washtenaw County.

Anson Van Buren, who settled in Calhoun County in 1836, described the disease as a chill that "crept over your system in streaks, faster and faster, and then colder and colder in succeeding undulations that coursed down your back." The chills caused shaking so violent that "the dishes rattled on the shelves against the log wall." Afterward came fever, sweat, and relief. Then the cycle repeated, sometimes for months.

Farmers scheduled their lives around the sickness, saving strenuous tasks like plowing for "well" days. On "ague" days, even professionals found it hard to work, as a justice of the peace learned when he was struck by the fever when he was scheduled to officiate at a wedding. "In the morning he attempted to fortify himself by taking a large dose of quinine and at noon repeated the precaution by taking a larger dose, and by the time the wedding party arrived, the justice was delirious," noted the 1880 *Michigan Historical Collections*. The official was "taken to the well and drenched with cold water, and for a short time, consciousness returned, and seizing that moment the parties were married."

Made from the bark of the Peruvian cinchona tree, quinine subdued malaria's worst symptoms. But for most of the nineteenth century it remained scarce and expensive, so people tried all kinds of alternatives. One Michigan doctor wrote that he found "a tea or decoction made from the poplar and iron wood bark to answer a very good purpose." The same physician also made a "cure" with tarry extract of butternut bark—though he admitted that patients who tried it often told him "that they much preferred the disease to the remedy."

Ann Arbor druggist A. W. Chase's famous 1863 compendium *Information for Everybody* offers no fewer than a dozen do-it-yourself ague cures, one brewed from mandrake root and another supplied by a clairvoyant. Many commercial cures concocted by nostrum-mongers contained quinine in more or less random amounts, adulterated with substances ranging from wintergreen to molasses. Rhodes' Fever and Ague Cure vowed to protect "any resident or traveler . . . from any ague or Bilious disease whatever, or any injury from constantly inhaling Malaria or Miasma." Chemist O. L. Churchill reported that the Rhodes "cure" contained no quinine but only charcoal, glucose, alcohol, iron, and muriatic acid—a corrosive today used to "pickle" steel and make mustard gas. Even worse was the Anti-Chill Pill, whose recipe contained arsenic. No wonder some sufferers opted instead for a curative slug of whiskey, one man regarding it as "necessary as a means of keeping off the pond ague."



BRETT R. SCHUTZMAN

Walter Oakman's grave in Highland Cemetery. He died of the "ague" in 1824, just days after buying land near Ypsilanti—the first recorded casualty of the malaria that once infested the region.

From 1868 to 1882, forty-eight county residents died of malaria. Because the cold-tolerant strain that was likely prevalent here has a fatality rate of around 1 percent, thousands may have been infected. In 1887 the Ann Arbor Business Men's Association published a guide to Ann Arbor that declared, "The whole place is entirely free of malaria." But in fact, more than sixty years after Walter Oakman's death, many still suffered from the disease. That year, nearly every edition of the weekly *Ann Arbor Courier* carried an ad for Tutt's Pills—"In malarial districts their virtues are widely recognized, as they possess peculiar properties in freeing the system from that poison." A competing product, Ayer's Ague Cure, was advertised in the issue of August 3, 1887. Even ten years later—on June 4, 1897—the *Ann Arbor Argus* contained a large ad, headlined "Shakes," for Scott's Emulsion of Cod-Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, to combat "a genuine malarial chill."

By then, though, the worst was over. By 1890 large-scale cinchona cultivation was under way in Indonesia, making quinine much cheaper. And in 1897 British officer Ronald Ross made the discovery—for which he won a 1902 Nobel Prize—of the malarial role of the anopheles mosquito. Malaria, it turned out, was caused by the microparasite *Plasmodium* cycling between humans and mosquitoes. Though a vaccine remains elusive to this day, Ross's discovery showed how malaria could be controlled by draining mosquito breeding sites and applying pesticides. With many of Michigan's wetlands already drained for agriculture, the infectious cycle was soon broken in Michigan.

Then, in 1925, the U-M brought it back. Austrian psychiatrist Julius Wagner-Jauregg had found that high malarial fevers seemed to alleviate the symptoms of advanced syphilis. The discovery earned him a 1927 Nobel Prize, the second of four Nobels eventually awarded for malaria work. Following the New York State Psychiatric Institute and the Mayo Clinic, the U-M began a program of "malarial fever therapy," in which patients were injected with malaria-contaminated blood. It remained the state-of-the-art therapy for advanced syphilis until penicillin supplanted it after World War II.

In 1947 the newly organized Communicable Disease Center (forerunner of today's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) launched a nationwide campaign to eradicate malaria. Through application of the pesticide DDT to millions of rural homes, malaria was eliminated as a significant public health problem in the United States within two years.

Similar eradication efforts in tropical countries failed, however, and were eventually abandoned. The CDC estimates that malaria still kills a million people a year, most of them young children in sub-Saharan Africa. Only in the past few years has the infection again become a global public health focus.

Last year, United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-moon called for making insecticide-treated bed nets and other malaria-control measures available throughout Africa by the end of 2010. It's an ambitious goal, but if it succeeds, the "ague" may eventually be a historical footnote not just in Michigan, but worldwide. ■

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March Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By mail:** John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
- **By fax:** 769–3375.
- **By e-mail:** hinch@aaobserver.com
- **After-hours drop box:** right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:

The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 SUNDAY

★**"A2Sunday Runners": Two Dogs Running.** *Every Sun.* All invited to join informal runs of 5–7 miles along various scenic routes. *8:30 a.m., meet at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Kerrytown. Free. 657–0214.*

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Sat., Sun., & Wed.* 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 11 a.m. (Wed.), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431 (Sat. rides), 761–6253 (Sun. morning), 994–5908 (Sun. afternoon & Wed.).*

"Maple Sugaring: A Journey to the Sugar Bush": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. *Every Sat. & Sun., Feb. 28–Mar. 29.* Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck discusses the history of maple sugaring and leads a hike to a stand of maple trees to see how they are tapped, followed by a trip to an evaporator to learn how sap is turned into syrup. Also, a pancake and sausage breakfast, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. *10 & 11 a.m. and noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2 ($5.50 includes breakfast). Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

"Dawn Dance Weekend": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *Feb. 27 & 28 and Mar. 1.* A weekend of folk dancing to live music, with around 400 people expected to dance or just listen to the many fine musicians. Today: In the gym, **open waltzing** to music by Dawn's Early Light (10 a.m.) and Robert Cromartie calls **contras** to music by the Latter Day Lizards (noon). In the cafeteria, Gene Murrow calls **English country dances** to music by Childgrove (noon). In the music room, Tammy Corwin-Renner leads **round singing** (10 a.m.). *10 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Clague Middle School, 2616 Nixon Rd. just east of Bluett. $20 (Feb. 27), $18 (Feb. 28 afternoon), $20 (Feb. 28 evening), & $16 (Mar. 1) at the door. Weekend pass $60 (youth and AACTMAD members, $55) in advance only. 677–0212.*

★**Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** *Mar. 1 & 15.* Today: U-M history and geography professor emeritus Rhoads Murphey discusses **"China and Tibet."** Also this month: **"Dance? Did You Say Dance?"** (Mar. 15), a talk by Delphi Belli Dance owner Elizabeth Vouvakis on the history and evolution of Oriental dance. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 994–4473.*

★**Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *10:15 a.m., Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sun.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Singles members discuss **"Volunteer Opportunities in Washtenaw County."** Also this month: First Presbyterian member Dee Valvanis discusses JFK's ***Profiles in Courage*** (Mar. 8), a **potluck and planning meeting** (Mar. 15), First Presbyterian member Norm Samuelson reviews Eric Berne's ***Games People Play: The Psychology of Human Relationships*** (Mar. 22), and First Presbyterian member Polly Pan leads a discussion of an audiotaped lecture on **"Paul, the Epistolary Evangelist"** (Mar. 29) from the Teaching Company series *Great Figures in the New Testament*. Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★**First Presbyterian Church Adult Education.** *Every Sun.* Today: Beth Israel Congregation rabbi Robert Dobrusin discusses **"The Significance of Passover."** Also this month: TBA (Mar. 8 & 15), a presentation by members of the local chapter the **Pilgrims of Ibillin** (Mar. 22), and Kalamazoo College religion professor Waldemar Schmeichel presents the 1st in a series of 2 talks on **"Violence and the Cross"** (Mar. 29). All invited. *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Lewis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"Discover Your Own Immigrant Story": Washtenaw County Historical Society.** Washtenaw County Genealogical Society members are on hand to help visitors explore their immigrant roots. In conjunction with the current Museum on Main Street exhibit *Coming to Washtenaw County. Noon–4 p.m., Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. Free. 662–9092.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Hillside Terrace, 1939 Jackson. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Children's Storytime: Liberty Borders.** *Every Sun.* Borders staff read stories for kids. *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.–Thurs.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the standard constructed (Sun., Mon., & Thurs.), Elder Dragon Highlander (Tues.), and Legacy constructed (Wed.) editions of this popular collectible card game. Also, a booster draft tournament ($15 includes cards) at 6 p.m. on Fridays and an extended deck tournament at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Bring your own cards. *1 p.m. (Sun.), 5 p.m. (Mon.), & 6 p.m. (Tues.–Thurs.), Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $5 (Mon., $2 entry fee & $2 per match). 786–3746.*

Tour: Kempf House Museum. *Every Sunday.* Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, named for the family of German American musicians who occupied it at the turn of the 19th century. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission $1 (children under age 12, free). 994–4898.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required; beginners welcome. (The 1st Sunday of each month begins with an hour of formal instruction.) Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., The Mind Body Spirit Academe, 1785 W. Stadium. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sun. & Thurs.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *1–6 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*



Wynton Marsalis leads the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in some big-band arrangements at Hill Auditorium Mar. 10.

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March 2009 Event Highlights
Ann Arbor District Library











Photo Courtesy of BRAVO





All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **3** — **Concert • RJ Spangler's Planet D Nonet: From Swing To R&B In The Detroit Music Scene**

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **4** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads Panel Discussion: Reading the Universe: A Panel of Today's Best Sci-Fi Writers**

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **5** — **The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative: A Community Discussion** led by MPRI staff

Friday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **6** — **The Art of the 2009 Ann Arbor Women Artists' Exhibition** discussed by local art educator **Ellen Wilt**

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **8** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads: Discover a Universe of Robots** with the **Ypsilanti Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club**
GRADE K - ADULT

Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **9** — **Panel Discussion • Learning Differences: What's In A Name Or Label And How To Move Beyond It**

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **10** — **Women's History Month Concert** with **Kitty Donohoe** and **Jan Krist**

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **11** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads: Prehistoric Astronomy in the Upper Midwest** discussed by researcher **Herman Bender**

Thursday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **12** — **Girls with Grit: Women's History Month Stories** with **Josie Barnes Parker** and **Laura Pershin Raynor** • PITTSFIELD BRANCH

Saturday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **14** — Famed Chinese actress **Zhang Xunpeng** demonstrates and discusses **Kunqu, A Classic Genre of Chinese Theater**

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **15** — **Bravo's *Top Chef* Season 4 Winner! An Afternoon with Stephanie Izard** • GRADE 6 - ADULT

Tuesday 6:30 - 9:00 pm — **17** — **Film & Panel Discussion** • ***In The Family*** (NOT RATED) with filmmaker/director **Joanna Rudnick** and research experts from the **UM Comprehensive Cancer Center**
This event is a collaboration with the award-winning documentary series P.O.V. (www.pbs.org/pov). POV

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **24** — Internationally-known art history expert **Walter Spink** discusses his **Exploration and Preservation Work in the Ajanta Caves of India**

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **26** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads: NASA Astronomer Sten Odenwald** discusses **What's New with the NASA Space Program**
GRADE 9 - ADULT

Saturday 3:00 - 4:30 pm — **28** — Director **Linda Goodrich** discusses the upcoming University of Michigan musical ***42nd Street***

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **29** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads: Detroit Observatory and the Victorian Space Race** • PITTSFIELD BRANCH

Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **30** — **Dr. Itzchak Weismann** discusses **The Naqshbandiyya, One of the Most Widespread Sufi Orders in the Muslim World**

For more information, call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

★**"Game On with the Vault": Ann Arbor District Library.** All 6th-graders through adults invited to learn to play some popular European-style family games with Vault of Midnight game experts. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. ***The Sky Tonight*** (11:30 a.m. Sat. only & 1:30 p.m. both days) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Black Holes*** (12:30 p.m. Sat.) is an animated show that begins with the formation of the early Universe and the birth and death of stars and concludes with a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way. ***Hubble Vision*** (2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about the discoveries made by the Hubble Space Telescope. *1:30 & 2:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★**"Kerry Tales: March Along with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's, 407 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.*

★**Cohousing Talks: Sunward Cohousing.** *Every Sun.* Talks by Sunward Cohousing founder Nick Meima. Followed by a tour of the 3 Ann Arbor cohousing communities. Today: **"Sustainability at the Neighborhood Level."** Also this month: **"Tired of Feeling Isolated? Find Out How Cohousing Can Help"** (Mar. 8), **"It Takes a Village to Raise a Child"** (Mar. 15), **"Seniors: Explore the Multigenerational Alternative to Retirement Communities"** (Mar. 22), and **"Why Most Communities Are Not"** (Mar. 29). *2 p.m., Sunward Cohousing, 424 Little Lake Dr. Free. Preregistration required. 663–5516.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 761–1451.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., Jan. 22–Mar. 21, & Mar. 17. See review, p. 33.* Guy Sanville directs Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer Prize–winning tragedy about Blanche DuBois, an emotionally fragile southern belle who moves into a squalid New Orleans tenement with her sister and brutish brother-in-law. One of Williams's most famous plays, *Streetcar* offers a definitive treatment of one of his most obsessive themes—the psychological destruction of a self-deluded central character full of aristocratic pretensions and unable to cope with the brute realities of life. Stars Michelle Mountain, Qarie Marshall, and Charlyn Swarthout. *2 p.m., Purple Rose, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $25 (Sun. eves., Wed., & Thurs.), $33 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & $38 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433–7673.*

★**Ultimate Frisbee: Ann Arbor Ultimate.** *Every Sun. (tentatively).* All invited to join a pickup game of this spirited team sport. *Note:* Overly aggressive players are politely asked to leave. *3 p.m., Mitchell Field, Fuller Rd. Free. info@a2ultimate.org.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. *Mar. 1, 8, 15, & 22.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents several marionette, rod, and shadow puppet shows for kids. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657–2337.*

★**"Maria Martinez: Native American Pottery Maker of San Ildefonso": Yourist Studio Gallery.** Screening of this video about a Pueblo potter world famous for her breathtaking glossy silvery-black pottery richly decorated with traditional Pueblo motifs. *4 p.m., Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

★**Dexter Community Orchestra.** Don Parrish conducts the orchestra in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Sibelius's Symphony no. 2 in D. *4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426–2734, 355–0725.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House barn, 1580 Dhu Varren Rd. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sun.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sun. except Mar. 29.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including foxtrots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and



A Streetcar Named Desire

A strong and shapely production

You can sit back and appreciate Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire* as a bluesy, boozy 1940s love song to New Orleans if you want. And no one will blame you if that's all you want to do with this extravagant parade of ludicrous plot points—southern belles losing the plantation and disappearing into gin joints, men smacking their women around and then making love to them in silk pajamas (that's men wearing the pajamas, not women), and hatchet-faced medics arriving at the door bearing straitjackets. Or you can try to see it as an allegory about the gorgeous fading twilight of the corrupt and seductive South, as serious-minded theatergoers used to do.

But today it seems a fresh and supple script because of the fervent point that Williams liked to make about women: in many of his plays, certainly this one, women end up being undone by their sexuality, unless they manage to stifle or channel it. Williams was probably speaking silently for gay men as well. (And even not so silently. As many times as I've seen the play, I had forgotten that buried in an otherwise unnecessary revelation toward the end there is the parallel story of the even earlier tragic takedown of young Blanche DuBois's homosexual husband.)

The Purple Rose production of *Streetcar* is sublime. Michelle Mountain, a powerfully sensuous actress who wears 1940s wardrobe like a second skin, was born to play Blanche DuBois. But who knew the rest of the cast would turn in such strong and shapely performances? Matthew David, blessed with Neanderthal carnality, is a natural for Stanley Kowalski. Charlyn Swarthout's Stella is wiser and more alert than you've ever seen her before, tilting the dynamics of the uneasy threesome into a more modern emotional landscape.

You have to wait for the third act to get to the really good stuff. There are moments when the first two acts don't completely click. Maybe it's Michigan in winter, but this production doesn't always conjure up the sweltering tropical loucheness of the New Orleans tenement where Blanche goes for her final act of passive self-destruction. The musical flourishes and the street-scene set pieces sometimes carry a whiff of academic exercise. Occasionally, even Michelle Mountain seems to be taking it a little too easy, falling into comical, lovable ditziness. But by the third act, everyone is good and warmed up. Stops are pulled out. You'll go home happy.

A Streetcar Named Desire continues its run, Wednesday through Sunday, through March 21.

—Sally Mitani

more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom (Mar. 1 & 15), Michigan League Ballroom (Mar. 8), & Michigan Union Pendleton Room (Mar. 22). $3. 763–6984.*

2 MONDAY

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. *Every Mon.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 769–0784.*

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. *Every Mon.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Followed by lunch (bring a bag lunch) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★Knitting and Sewing Group: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 55 & older invited. *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Dr. Seuss Birthday Party: Barnes & Noble. Kids invited for Dr. Seuss stories, games, and crafts. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1816.*

★Rachel Tzvia Back: U-M English Department/ Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Reading by this Israeli-American poet. University of Pennsylvania poetry professor Andrew Mossin calls Back's 2007 book *On Ruins & Return* a "journey . . . to inscribe in a poetry of psalmic intensity and astringent care the geographic, political, and po-ethical realities of present-day Israel." *Noon, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 615–3710.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $1. 769–5911.*

★Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon. & Tues.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m. (Mon.) & 9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Mon. & Fri.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon. & Fri.* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Mon.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., & AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Fri.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327–4200.*

★"The Integrated Cosmos of the Hittites": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Talk by U-M Near Eastern studies professor Gary Beckman. *3 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0530.*

★Nicole Brossard: EMU English Department Bathhouse Reading Series. Reading by this renowned Montreal poet, novelist, and essayist. "Containing neither dainty sigh nor saintly swoon, Brossard's writing both challenges and rewards careful readers," says fellow Canadian poet Judith Fitzgerald. "Salutary, exotic, exquisitely searing in their compressed bedazzlement, the robust fruits of Brossard's various labours prove she is, indeed, Canada's greatest living poet." *5:30 p.m., EMU Halle Library Carillon Room (off Oakwood from Washtenaw), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–1310.*

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Mon.* All invited to join a group reading and discussion of this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. *6:45–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★"Seeing in the Dark: How Amateur Astronomers Are Discovering the Wonders of the Universe": Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads Discussion Group. All invited to join a discussion of best-selling freelance science writer Timothy Ferris's award-winning account of the explosion of amateur astronomy. Another discussion of the book is hosted by the Ann Arbor District Library on Mar. 19 (see listing). *6:45–8 p.m., Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2600 Nixon Rd. Free. 761–7273.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus. *Every Mon.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.*

★"Of Human Bonding": U-M English Department Lecture Series. *Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30.* Lectures by U-M faculty and visiting scholars. Today: U-M Afro-American and African studies professor Lorna Goodison and U-M sociology professor Silvia Pedraza on **"Race as Memory."** Also this month: UC-Santa Barbara religious studies professor emeritus Charles Long on **"Religion and the Nation"** (Mar. 9), U-M Near Eastern studies professor Sherman Jackson on **"The Future of Religion and the Public Sphere"** (Mar. 16), U-M English professor Ralph Williams on **"The History of Religion and the Public Sphere"** (Mar. 23), and Drew University president Robert Weisbuch on **"The Future of the University"** (Mar. 30). *7–9 p.m., U-M Natural Sciences Auditorium, 830 North University. Free. 769–0500.*

★"How to Sell Your Home in a Difficult Market": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by veteran Charles Reinhart realty agent Elizabeth Brien. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

Dream Group. *Every Mon.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., 215 N. Seventh St. Donation. 662–5925.*

★Shamanic Journeys. *Every Mon.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 320–9559.*

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by Tim Tikker. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 213–3172.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon.* Instruction in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). $5. 769–1052, 425–0241.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

3 TUESDAY

★Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play poker, mah-jongg, bridge, tile rummy, and Wii bowling,

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Gallery

2009 Kreft Juried Exhibition ✦

Exhibition runs through March 22
Kreft Center Gallery

This exhibition, juried by the Detroit Institute of Art Associate Curator, Rebecca Hart, displays the very best in the visual arts that incorporates various meanings and potential approaches to the idea of reconciliation. Artists from around the country offer sculptures, prints, photographs, drawings, paintings and digital and video installments.

Music

Concordia Wind Ensemble ✦

Friday, March 13 | 8:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

Concordia University Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Professor Matthew Wolf, will present its Spring Concert, returning to Ann Arbor after touring Ohio, Washington DC, and the New York City area. Much of the concert will highlight music of the United States, including music of Sousa, Gould, and Bernstein.

Music

Empire Brass

Sunday, March 22 | 4:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity
Tickets: $10 – 15

The Empire Brass enjoys an international reputation as North America's finest brass quintet, renowned for its brilliant virtuosity and the unparalleled diversity of its repertoire. The ensemble performs over 100 concerts a year in cities such as New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington, London, Zurich and Tokyo.
www.empirebrass.com

Music

Peder Eide in Concert ✦

Friday, March 27 | 7:30 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

Concordia welcomes singer/songwriter Peder Eide in concert for a night of energizing music and uplifting worship. Peder ministers to over 100,000 students a year throughout all of North America at national gatherings, festivals, conferences, conventions, concerts, and churches. His love for young people fuels his ministry with the desire to encourage, challenge, and motivate people to a closer walk with Jesus Christ. **www.pedereide.com**
www.myspace.com/pedereideworship

Music / Lecture

Taste Worship with Peder Eide ✦
a family worship event

Saturday, March 28 | 1:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

Experience a fresh approach to family ministry. Taste Worship is an afternoon seminar/concert filled with heartfelt, energetic worship; encouraging teaching loaded with biblical principles and creative ideas. Your family will begin to taste worship in your everyday lives through meaningful questions to get dialogue flowing; and practical "ingredients" to use at home to build ongoing connections. **www.tasteworship.com**

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PETER BAKER



President Obama and the First 100 Days

Monday, March 9
7:30 P.M.

Join Peter Baker, former senior White House correspondent for *The Washington Post* and presently reporting on the White House for *The New York Times*, as he provides his keen insight and perspective on the new administration.

Open Seating. Reception follows.
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The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Concert of the Season

Mendelssohn's 200th Birthday Bash

A Midsummer Night's Dream Selections with "The Wedding March"
Symphony No. 5 "The Reformation" with "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

Bach's Birthday

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor featuring Joel Hastings
Walton: Suite from "The Wise Virgins" arrangement of music by J.S. Bach

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boxing, and more. Also, at 10 a.m., **Scrabble.** *9:30–11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *Every Tues. except Mar. 10.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tues.* Activities begin at 10 a.m. (through Mar. 24) with **"The Bible in Its Time: An Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East,"** a lecture series by U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies visiting scholar Lisbeth Fried. Also, at 11 a.m. **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, followed at 1 p.m. by a chance to play **mah-jongg, cards,** and **board games** or join **quilting** and other craft projects. The program concludes at 1:30 p.m. with **Yiddish Tish,** a Yiddish conversation group. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** *Every Tues.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Today: Cornell University history professor Sherman Cochran discusses **"Chinese Business Dynasty: Family Survival Strategies in War and Revolution."** Also this month: U-M law professor Nicholas Howson on **"The Shanghai People's Courts"** (Mar. 10), Albion College history professor Yi-Li Wu on **"Gender, Disease, and Visual Culture: Representations of the Female Breast in Late Imperial Chinese Medicine"** (Mar. 17), U-M business professor Minyuan Zhao on **"The 3rd-Generation Wireless Technology Standard in China"** (Mar. 24), and UCLA Asia Institute director R. Bin Wong on **"The Taxing Transformation of the Contemporary Chinese State in Historical and Comparative Perspectives"** (Mar. 31). *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**"Talk Show Democracy": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** *Mar. 3, 10, & 17.* Part of a series of lectures, in conjunction with 2 "Talk Show Democracy" conferences (see 27 Friday and 30 Monday listings), by visiting scholars on the impact of the media on politics both globally and nationally. Bring a bag lunch. Today: novelist and Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist John Darnton discusses **"News Without Newspapers."** Also this month: *New Yorker* cartoon editor Robert Mankoff on **"If Honesty Is the Best Policy, What's Next Best: The Ethos and Ethics of the Political Cartoon of the *New Yorker*"** (Mar. 10), and University of Southern California film professor Marsha Kinder on **"Documenting the Global Cities of Los Angeles & Beijing"** (Mar. 17). *Noon–1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Newcomers Coterie Club of Ann Arbor.** Ann Arbor Potters Guild member **Dorie Mickelson** presents a slide-illustrated talk on the craft of pottery and discusses the local pottery scene. Coffee, tea, & dessert served. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by lunch (preregistration required). *12:30 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Free. Low-cost child care arrangements available in advance only. 761–9153.*

★**Warhammer Tournament: Get Your Game On.** *Every Tues., Thurs., & Sat.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the 40K (Tues. & Sat.) and Fantasy (Thurs. & Sat.) editions of this tactical miniatures board game. Also, a Warmachine tournament at 6 p.m. on Saturdays. *5 p.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) & 6 p.m. (Sat.), Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★**"At the Junction: Industrial Design": WCC Gallery One.** U-M art & design professor Allen Samuels discusses the gallery's current exhibit. *5:30 p.m., WCC Gallery One, Student Center Bldg. Free. 477–8512.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***Las Viudas de los Jueves,*** Claudia Pineiro's tale of moral corruption in a gated community outside Buenos Aires. *6:45 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Common Thread Knitters Club.** *Mar. 3 & 17.* All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Writers Group.** *Every Tues.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 665–8194.*

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** *Mar. 3 & 17.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *7–10 p.m., Pierpont Commons Center Room. Free. 477–6985.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues.* Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: Shirley Harden and Drake Meadow call to music by David West, Donna Baird, and Nawal Motawi. Also this month: callers Ray Bantle and Dan Blim with music by Childgrove (Mar. 10), callers Don Theyken and Harden with music by West, Baird, and Elizabeth Epstein (Mar. 17), callers Bronwen Gates and Arlene Kindel with music by Childgrove (Mar. 24), and callers Harden and Meadow with music by the Scalar Scalawags (Mar. 31). All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $7 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★**"Balanced Leadership in Unbalanced Times": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** LeadersConnect and CEO Connect founder **Robert Pasick,** an influential organizational psychologist and executive coach who is a U-M Business School faculty affiliate, discusses his new book. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Bryan Gruley: Aunt Agatha's.** This *Wall Street Journal* Chicago bureau chief, a Detroit native, discusses his debut mystery novel ***Starvation Lake,*** a story set in a crumbling small town in northern Michigan where the editor of the local newspaper, recently returned to town after failing to make a splash at the *Detroit News,* investigates the murder of his former hockey coach and the disturbing town secrets surrounding it. Signing. *7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**"Little Bee": Liberty Borders.** London journalist **Chris Cleave** reads from his novel about a British couple trying to salvage their marriage with a spontaneous trip to Nigeria who have a disturbing encounter with some machete-armed soldiers that changes their lives. "Besides sharp, witty dialogue, an emotionally charged plot, and the vivid characters' ethical struggles, *Little Bee* delivers a timely challenge to reinvigorate our notions of civilised decency," says *The Independent.* Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**R. J. Spangler's Planet D Nonet: Ann Arbor District Library.** Classic swing, blues, R&B, and space-age jazz by this Detroit ensemble led by drummer Spangler and trumpeter James O'Donnell. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tues.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tues.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance. For information, call Greg Humbel at 445–1925.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** *Every Tues.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7:30–9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($80 per semester membership dues). 213–3770.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *Mar. 3 & 17.* Annual member projected image (Mar. 3) and print (Mar. 17) competitions. *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport at Sunset. Free ($25 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

"The Swift Path": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Tues.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *7:30–9 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

★**"Voci dell' Anima": EMU Music Department.** An EMU faculty ensemble presents a program of early music TBA. Performers: soprano Deborah Friauff, organist and harpsichordist Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra, viola da gambist Debra Lonergan, and cornettist Kiri Tollaksen. *7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest Ave. (off College Place from Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tues.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.*

Gino Robair: Kerrytown Concert House. This San Francisco musician who plays unusual percussion instruments is joined by several area jazz musicians in a program of improvised jazz. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. $3. 665-9090.*

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tues.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

4 WEDNESDAY

★**"Storytime with Miss Annette": Arborland Borders.** *Every Wed. & Fri.* Borders staffer "Miss Annette" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"The Taste of Ann Arbor No-Mile Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Mar. 4 & 18.* Riders meet for lunch at different restaurants on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays through the winter. *11:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 662–5052.*

★**"Body Weight and Bias": U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library.** Talk by U-M women's studies professor Anna Kirkland. *Noon, 100 Hatcher Library, 920 North University. Free. 615–3194.*

★**"Europe's Political and Economic Challenges": U-M Center for European Studies "Conversations on Europe."** Talk by U-M School of Public Policy International Policy Center director **Jan Svejnar,** a former candidate for president of the Czech Republic. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

Noon Lecture Series: Kempf House Center for Local History. *Every Wed.* Today: **"Michigan Mania: A Woman's Perspective,"** a talk by retired Saline High School English and history teacher Susan Nenadic on the lives of Michigan women before statehood. Also this month: retired *Ann Arbor News* columnist Don Faber discusses his new book ***The Toledo War*** (Mar. 11), local preservation activist Scott Hedburg presents a **"Tale of the Delhi Bridge"** (Mar. 18), and local history buffs Chuck and Connie Olson discuss **"Michigan's Carnegie Libraries"** (Mar. 25). *Noon–1 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission $2 (Kempf House members, $1). 994–4898.*

★**Brown Bag Organ Series: U-M School of Music.** *Mar. 4 & 18.* Recitals by local organists. Program TBA. Bring a bag lunch. Today: **Christopher Reynolds.** Also this month: First United Methodist Church organist **Naki Sung Kripfgans** (Mar. 18). *12:15 p.m., U-M SPH Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Wed.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Secondhand Planet": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Lecture by Columbia University Center for Earth Science Information Network director Robert Chen. *5 p.m., Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers.** *Every Wed.* All invited to join local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

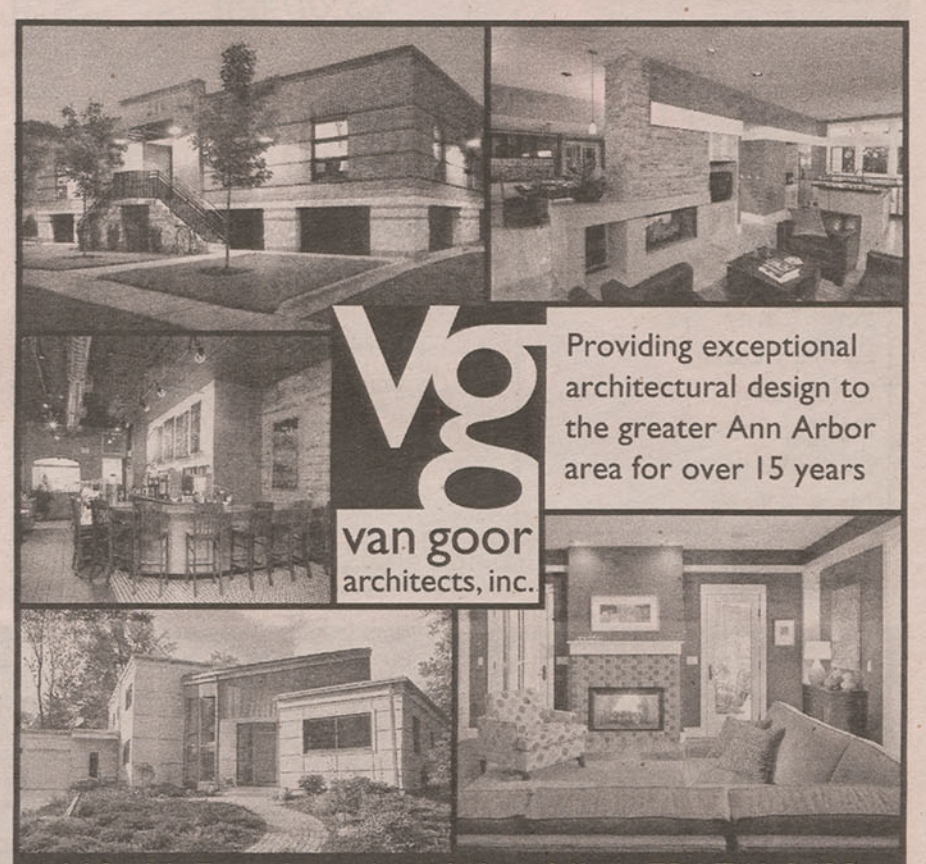
Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

★**"Matthaei's Herb Garden": Evening Herb Study Group.** Talk by Matthaei herb garden curator Adrienne O'Brien. *7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–8303.*

★**"Chronic Stress and Fatigue": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by local chiropractor Dan Geck. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Health Sessions: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** *Mar. 4, 12, 16, & 18.* Talks by Whole Foods staff and local health practitioners. Today: acupuncturist Gary Merel on **"Acupuncture: A Bridge Between the Ancient & Modern Worlds."** Also this month: chiropractor Darren Schmidt on **"Parasites in You"** (Mar. 12), nutritional consultant Cindy Clement on **"Mend the Mind: A Holistic Approach to Mental Health"** (Mar. 16), and Whole Foods staffer Tonya Huffman on **"Health Benefits of Tea & Coffee"** (Mar. 18). Also, on Mar. 6 Whole Foods staffer Ami Attee gives a talk on **"Vegan Recipes for Health and Value"** ($10, 7 p.m.). *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

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5:00 pm

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David Mason
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Saher Alam
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★**"Reading the Universe": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion on trends in science-fiction with 3 prominent sci-fi writers, Caribbean-born speculative fiction writer **Tobias S. Buckell,** local sci-fi novelist **Steven Harper Piziks,** and Ypsilanti sci-fi and fantasy writer **Sarah Zettel.** *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** *Mar. 4 & 18.* Featured writers read from their current work. Tonight: poetry by U-M creative writing grad **Robyn Anspach** and fiction by **Dave Karczynski,** a U-M creative writing grad who reads from his novel-in-progress *Kanadia,* a metaphysical picaresque set in a fictional country north of the U.S. *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**Jeff Kass: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This award-winning local poet and fiction writer, a Pioneer High English teacher, reads from ***Falling Faithless, a Graphic Poetica,*** a collection of poems illustrated comic book style by U-M art student Page Redford. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wed. except Mar. 18.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Wednesdays @ Michigan Union: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wed.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by intermediate swing (7:30 p.m.) and beginning swing (8:30 p.m.) lessons. *9:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (occasionally Ballroom or U-Club). $5 (includes lessons). 945–8428.*

5 THURSDAY

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. **Current Events** discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. Today: local builder and **Holocaust survivor Larry Hiss** discusses his life before and after WW II. Preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a celebration of March birthdays. Also this month: local musician David Owens with a **Nostalgia Radio Show** featuring great songs from the big-band and pre-rock era (Mar. 12), **local fitness instructor Maria Farquhar** on the importance of exercise and fitness (Mar. 19), and Peretz Hirshbein with a slide-illustrated talk on his recent **trip to Israel** (Mar. 26). *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thurs.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *Noon–3:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 769–5911.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** *Mar. 5, 12, 19, & 26.* Talks by visiting scholars. Today: University of Chicago Japanese history professor Susan Burns on **"Medicine on Trial: The Soma Incident, Private Confinement, and the Limits of Psychiatry in Modern Japan."** Also this month: Ohio State University history professor Philip Brown on **"Confronting Natural Disasters on the Echigo Plain"** (Mar. 12), U-M Japanese studies visiting professor Katsuya Hirano on **"Rethinking the Political: Power and Popular Culture in Early Modern Japan"** (Mar. 19), and UC-Santa Barbara Japanese cultural studies professor Sabine Fruehstueck on **"Playing War: Childhood and Militarism in the 20th Century"** (Mar. 26). *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6307.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *Mar. 5, 12, 19, & 26.* Performances by local musicians. Today: classical and pop songs by **Diana Herstein.** Also this month: jazz by the **Geoffrey Esty Trio** (Mar. 12), Irish folk music by the duo of singer-songwriter **Kitty Donohoe** and dulcimer player **Doug Berch** (Mar. 19), and classical music by U-M student oboists **Rachel Van Amburgh** and **Kendra Cheney** (Mar. 26). *12:10*

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Public Lecture

High-Temperature Superconductivity:
From Broken Symmetries to The Power Grid

Laura H. Greene

Swanlund Professor of Physics, University of Illinois

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
340 West Hall
1085 S. University Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
4:00PM - 5:00PM



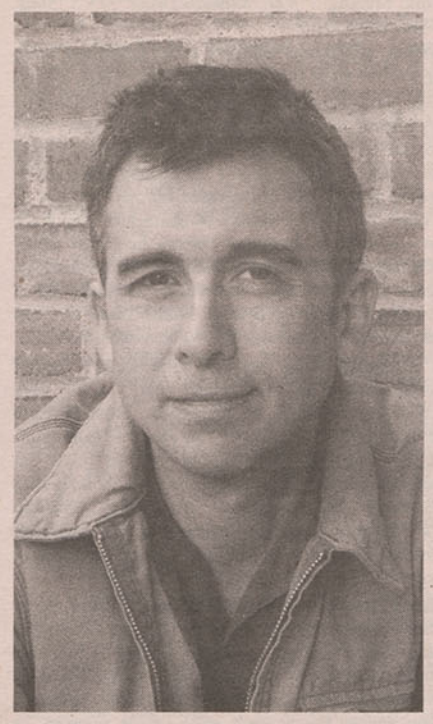


Superconductivity, first discovered in 1911, is the loss of all electrical resistance by certain materials when cooled to very low temperatures. In 1986, and more recently in 2008, two new classes of superconductors we call "high-temperature superconductors" were discovered which superconduct at much more easily obtained temperatures. Each of these discoveries motivated an unprecedented world-wide flurry of research: Not only do the high-temperature superconductors represent fascinating new classes of solid state of matter which break certain fundamental symmetries of nature, but applications such as impacting the power grid by significantly reducing power loss, are extremely promising.

For more information visit: http://cscs.umich.edu/

Steve Amick

A time and an occupation



Unless you are part of a select group with some specialized knowledge, you might find it hard to believe that Ann Arbor was once known for making cameras. But, yes, the Argus Camera Company made cameras here. The Argus Buildings at Fourth and West William streets are an easy walk from downtown and are now home to Michigan Radio, among other organizations. Argus manufactured cameras there until 1962. For a generation, its most popular product was America's best-selling thirty-five-millimeter camera.

Local writer Steve Amick has found inspiration there for his second novel, *Nothing but a Smile*, a historical novel set mostly in Chicago at the end of World War II. Wink Dutton is a returning veteran, a budding cartoonist who lost the use of his drawing hand in a stupid accident onboard a submarine. Having no idea how he will make a living now that his one talent has been rendered useless, he visits a war buddy's wife who is running her family's camera shop in Chicago's Loop.

Wink finds a way to help Sal with the business, and he soon discovers that to make ends meet she has been taking pinup pictures of herself. These were the "girlies," very soft-core porn shots popular with GIs, the kind that suggested a lot more information than they ever dared to show. When Sal's husband dies on his way home after the war, the two titillators get married. Wink and Sal are hardworking, lovable characters who simply seem to be free of much of the noisy prudery of their time. Most of the novel is a celebration of that sense of freedom.

Of course, working out on the fringe of what's legal brings them into contact with some less savory types. Although there's a lovely cameo appearance by a young man who may indeed be Hugh Hefner, other characters are not quite so pleasant. Just as Wink is developing into a photographer of note, they are forced to leave Chicago. They end up here, in Ann Arbor, drawn as much by the presence of Argus as by any sense of college-town insular safety: "The bright masonry of the Argus Camera Company headquarters suddenly appeared before them as if plunked down amid the elms and maples." They begin a new life.

Steve Amick, who reads from his new novel at Nicola's Books on Tuesday, March 10, has done a memorable job creating a time, a place, and an occupation while succeeding at making his readers care deeply about the good people involved in it all. *Nothing but a Smile* is a serious novel that leaves its readers with a sense that they have remembered, fondly, a time they probably never knew.

—Keith Taylor

p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.

★Thursday Lecture Series: U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. *Mar. 5 & 19.* Today: U-M history and women's studies professor Hitomi Tonomura on **"Samurai and Their Women: Violence, Gender, and the State in Premodern Japan."** Also this month: UC-Berkeley geography and development studies professor Michael Watts on **"Economies of Violence: Some Thoughts on Oil Insurgency and Petro-Pirates"** (Mar. 19). *4 p.m., Tisch Hall, 435 S. State St. Free. 764–6305.*

★"Self-Deception: Theory and Practice": U-M English Department. Northwestern University radio, television, and film professor **Laura Kipnis** discusses the hypocrisy of the "gotcha" mentality that ridicules others' lack of self-awareness. *4 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 615–3710.*

Wine & Beer Sessions: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Mar. 5, 9, 12, 19, 23, & 26.* Whole Foods staff discuss wine, beer, and cheese. Also, tastings and small plates of food. Today's topic: **"Malbec."** Also this month: **"British Isle Beers"** (Mar. 9), **"Syrah Blends"** (Mar. 12), **"Wines of Bordeaux"** (Mar. 19), **"Tuscany"** (Mar. 23), and **"Lesser-Known Reds"** (Mar. 26). *5–7 p.m. (Thurs.) & 6 p.m. (Mon.), Whole Foods Wine Bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. $17 (Thurs.) & $10 (Mon.). 997–7507.*

★"Global Sustainability": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series. Talk by **Jacque Fresco,** a 92-year-old Florida industrial designer, futurist, author, and inventor. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★David Grubbs: EMU English Department Bathhouse Reading Series. Performance by this singer-songwriter, a founding member of the Louisville punk band Squirrel Bait who is currently a Brooklyn College radio and sound art professor. *5 p.m., Sponberg Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–1310.*

★Board Game Night: Get Your Game On. *Every Thurs. & Sat.* All invited to bring their own favorite board game or play one of the store's. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

Higher Consciousness Group: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Thurs.* All invited to discuss and practice techniques to raise consciousness. *7–8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 353–0906.*

★"Oklahoma Geology, Part 1": Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society. Video screening. Also, club members show their fossil specimens. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

★"The Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI)": Ann Arbor District Library. Panel discussion with MPRI professionals and former prisoners. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★"Rethinking Thin": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender Motorola Lecture. *New York Times* science writer **Gina Kolata** gives a talk based on her 2007 book that questions the American obsession with dieting. *7 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 764–9537.*

★"We Are Not One: American Jews, Israel, and the Struggle for Soviet Jewry": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies 19th Annual Belin Lecture. Lecture by Ben-Gurion University (Israel) local government professor **Fred Lazin.** Preceded at 6 p.m. by a reception. *7 p.m., Palmer Commons Forum Hall, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 763–9047.*

★"Wandering Stars": Shaman Drum Bookshop. Ann Arborite **Aliza Shevrin,** a well-known Yiddish literature translator and scholar, reads from her new translation of Sholem Aleichem's 1909 novel, a love





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story about the daughter of a poor cantor and the son of a rich man who run away together from a Russian shtetl to join a traveling theater company. They are quickly separated, but both eventually become major stars, touring the world until they both land in New York. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★"The Baltimore Waltz": U-M Basement Arts. *Mar. 5–7.* U-M theater student Yael Kiken directs U-M students in Paula Vogel's tragicomic AIDS allegory about an uptight schoolteacher who thinks she's contracted a fatal disease from an elementary school toilet seat. Accompanied by her equally repressed librarian brother, she crisscrosses Europe in search of a cure and meets a variety of characters who teach her—with what *American Theatre* magazine called "the inexorable logic of a dream and the pressing urgency of a nightmare"—to let loose and enjoy life. *7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basement@umich.edu.*

★"Transition Town Initiative Film Series": Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor. *Mar. 5 & 19.* Film screenings, followed by discussion. Tonight: Faith Morgan's 2006 documentary ***The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil.*** Also this month: Canadian filmmaker Gregory Greene's widely acclaimed 78-minute 2004 documentary ***The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream*** (Mar. 19). *7:30–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner High School, 2230 Pontiac Trail. Free. 669–9394.*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dancing to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour followed by intermediate and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear sneakers or other flat, comfortable shoes. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (students, free). 971–0990.*

"Choral Cavalcade West": Ann Arbor Public Schools. Student choirs from Pioneer High School and Slauson Middle School perform a wide spectrum of choral music, from Rodgers and Hammerstein's "You'll Never Walk Alone" to Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl" and Deep Blue Something's "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Proceeds benefit middle and high school choirs. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. $5 (students, $2; families, $10) at the door. 994–2189.*

★Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. *Every Thurs.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *8–10 p.m., ICC Education Center (behind Luther House at 1520 Hill). Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Park on Lincoln or Baldwin. 474–1155.*

★Faculty Showcase Concert: U-M School of Music. Soprano **Carmen Pelton,** flutist **Amy Porter,** hornist **Adam Unsworth,** trombonist **David Jackson,** tubaist **Fritz Kaenzig,** bassist **Diana Gannett,** and pianists **Martin Katz** and **Ellen Rowe** perform works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"A Delicate Balance": P.T.D. Productions. *Mar. 5–8 & 12–14.* Alice Fell directs local actors in Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize–winning drama, a dark comedy about a couple struggling to understand what's become of their marriage. The matter is complicated by the influence of phobic family friends, the wife's accordion-playing alcoholic sister, and their daughter, who has returned home after the messy collapse of her 4th marriage. Cast: Marla Gousseff, Rick Katon, Janet Rich-Platte, Sara Kruger, Marie Jones, and Richard Heberlein. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $16 (students & seniors, $11) in advance and at the door. 483–7345.*

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Mar. 5–Apr. 5.* Joseph Zettelmaier directs Sarah Treem's quirky comedy about women's choices in the contemporary world. A young New York oboist's aspirations for a career as a composer, already distracted by a love affair with a rising rock star, are interrupted when she is called home to New Hampshire by her mother, who has announced she is leaving her husband to pursue an independent life. "One of Treem's admirable strengths is that she doesn't write gags; she writes lines that are believably funny when expressed by wholly real characters," says David Finkle in his theatermania.com review of the play's 2007 premiere at Playwrights Horizons in New York. Cast: Inga Wilson, John Seibert, Terry Heck. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Mar. 5 & 14 matinee), $22 (Mar. 6, 8, & 12), and $30 (Mar. 7). Mar. 13 opening night tickets: $39 & $41 includes reception. After Mar. 13: $27 & $29 (Thurs.), $32 & $34 (Fri. & Sun.), $25 & $27 (Sat. matinee), $39 & $41 (Sat. eve.). $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $10 student discounts available in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Stage Door": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *Mar. 5–8.* Mitchell Gillett directs local actors in Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman's 1936 Broadway play about a New York boardinghouse full of aspiring actresses. Each young woman takes a different path, from leaving showbiz to get married (considered by the others as a fate worse than death) to selling out for a Hollywood career, all with what the *New York Times* calls a "sense of snippy fun." *8 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets $18 (seniors, $15; students, $10; Thursday, $13) in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Gary Gulman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Mar. 5–7.* This Massachusetts comic, a former finalist in the NBC reality talent show *Last Comic Standing* and star of the HBO series *Tourgasm*, specializes in irreverently hilarious observations about everyday life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $13 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

6 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. *Mar. 6 & 20.* A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

"World Day of Prayer": Church Women United. Women of all faiths are invited to this annual interdenominational service celebrated around the world. *9:30 a.m., location TBA. Freewill offering. 665–8773.*

★Writing Group: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Fri.* All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. *10 a.m.–noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★Brown Bag Lecture Series: U-M Museum Studies. *Mar. 6 & 20.* Today: Yankee Air Museum curator Gayle Drews discusses a topic TBA. Also this month: U-M art history and museum studies grad student Kathy Zarur on **"An Art Foundation in Palestine: Forging Possibility in Impossible Circumstances"** (Mar. 20). *Noon, 7603 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 936–6678.*

★Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists. *Every Fri. through Apr. 3.* Noontime concerts by professional and student organists on the First Congregational Church's mighty Wilhelm organ. Followed at 1 p.m. (except Mar. 27) by a lecture by local organ builder Helmut Schick on **"Organs: Their Structure and Their Place in History."** Today: Bethlehem United Church of Christ organist **Gail Jennings** plays Mendelssohn's Sonata VI. *Noon, First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 662–4466.*

★Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Fri.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *1 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

★Socrates Cafe: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Fri.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to join a discussion of ethics that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *1–1:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"Manilow Competition": EMU Music Department. EMU undergrad vocalists and instrumentalists in all styles—classical, jazz, & pop—compete in this scholarship competition funded by pop singer Barry Manilow. *3 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★"More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City": U-M School of Public Policy. Talk by Harvard University sociology professor William Julius Wilson. The keynote speech of a U-M conference on "Emerging Issues in Poverty and Inequality." *4–5:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615–3893.*

31st Annual Lenten Fish Fry: Old St. Patrick's Church. *Every Fri., Feb. 27–Apr. 3.* Fried Alaskan pollack, choice of potato, salad bar, and beverage. Desserts available for a nominal additional charge. Beer & wine available for donation. Be prepared to stand in line, but the food is worth the wait. *4:30–8 p.m., Old St. Pat's parish hall, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. at Northfield Church (3 miles north of Ann Arbor). $7.50 (seniors, $7; children 5–11, $6.50; children 4 & under, free). 662–8141.*

★"The Bodies of Angels": U-M School of Music. UCLA musicology professor Susan McClary discusses angelic effects in Renaissance choral music. *5 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall. Free. 764–0594.*

★**AXIS Coffeehouse: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Fri.* All kids in grades 6–12 invited to perform their own poetry or monologue, or a favorite by another writer, or just to sip a hot drink and listen. *6:30–8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

CCHA Playoffs: U-M Ice Hockey. *March 6, 7, & (if necessary) 8.* The U-M team opens its quest for the CCHA championship with a best-of-three series against an opponent TBA. If it wins this series, the U-M is likely to host a 2nd-round series, March 13–15. *7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $19–$25. 764–0247.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *Mar. 6, 7, 17, 20–21, 24, 28, & 29.* This Ann Arbor–based program for the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players winds up its 2008–2009 schedule against North American Hockey League teams. Today and Mar. 7: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Traverse City North Stars** of the North American Hockey League. Also this month: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Motor City** (Brownstown, Michigan) **Machine** (Mar. 17 & 24), and **vs. Alpena Ice Diggers** (Mar. 20 & 21), and **Team USA Under-17 vs. Motor City** (Brownstown, Michigan) **Machine** (Mar. 28) and **vs. Alpena Ice Diggers** (Mar. 29). *7 p.m. (3 p.m. on Mar. 29), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $12 (students & children, $6). 327–9251.*

★**"The Art of the 2009 Ann Arbor Women Artists Exhibition": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local arts educator Ellen Wilt discusses this AADL exhibit that opens today. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 332–7964.*

First Friday Ballroom Dance Party: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. Dancing to recorded waltzes, fox-trots, swing, and Latin dance music. Lessons for beginners. *7–9 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. Reservations requested. 222–6246.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** *Mar. 6 & 13 (different programs).* Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by **Doug Trevor** and poetry by **Joshua Buursma.** Also this month: prose by **Bradford Kammin** and poetry by **Emily Zinnemann** (Mar. 13). *7 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 615–3710.*

Pear: Fiddlers ReStrung Hometown Concert. High-energy country-pop by this up-and-coming Canadian band fronted by the husband-and-wife duo of fiddler Lynae Dufresne and award-winning mandolinist-fiddler-guitarist Denis Dufresne. Opening acts are the **Fiddlers ReStrung,** an ensemble of Saline High School fiddlers that performs American folk, bluegrass, and Celtic music, and the **Saline Schools 6th-Grade Fiddle Clubs.** *7 p.m., Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy. (off Industrial, north from E. Michigan), Saline. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10) in advance and at the door. 944–2283.*

Pike Comedy Night: U-M Pi Kappa Alpha. Performance by **Mike Birbiglia,** a popular New York-based comic whose stand-up routines often feature stories about a sleep disorder he has that gets him into hilarious—sometimes dangerous—situations, such as dreaming he's won an Olympic gold medal and waking up when he falls off the winners' rostrum, aka the tall bookshelf in his living room. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Proceeds benefit Michigan Reach Out and Alpha House. Tickets $15–$30 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

★**"The Baltimore Waltz": U-M Basement Arts.** See 5 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

"Danny, the Champion of the World": Young Actors Guild. *Mar. 6–8.* Jenny Sawtelle directs young local actors in David Wood's adaptation of Roald Dahl's story about a boy named Danny who lives with his dad in a Gypsy wagon. When they are threatened with eviction because of his dad's poaching, Danny comes up with an adventurous plan to save their way of life. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Tickets $10 (kids age 18 & under, $5). 913–9800.*

★**Symphony Band & Concert Band: U-M School of Music.** Rodney Dorsey directs these music-student ensembles in Carolyn Bremer's baseball-inspired *Early Light,* Joel Puckett's *It Perched for Vespers Nine,* and selections from Tielman Susato's *Danserye. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Tyler DeVos: Canterbury House. Singer-songwriter from Maine who writes wryly humorous, often harshly self-analytical songs about love and other personal themes and whose music draws on a range of influences from Ellis Paul and Vance Gilbert to Wilco and Big Star. He is accompanied by his band, the **Dry County Boys.** Opening act is **Pear & the Peppers,** an eclectic local band led by jazz bassist Doug Stuart. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students & seniors, $5). 764–3152.*

Tommy Womack: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). A witty, quirky mix of blues, folk, country, rock, and pop by this Nashville singer-songwriter, a former member of Government Cheese and the Bis-Quits who co-founded the band Daddy with Will Kimbrough. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"Mr. B's Annual Birthday Bounce": Kerrytown Concert House. *Mar. 6 & 7.* Ann Arbor's world-renowned Flint-born blues pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun belatedly celebrates his February birthday in this popular annual concert. An exuberant, powerful performer whose repertoire includes both boogie-woogie and blues classics and originals in the same mold, Mr. B has performed and recorded with world-class artists such as the late drummer J. C. Heard and Detroit percussionist Roy Brooks. His latest CD is *Mr. B Live at Kerrytown Concert House.* Mr. B is accompanied by a guest performer TBA. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15, $20, & $30. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"An Evening of Scenes": U-M Residential College Players. *Mar. 6 & 7.* RC students direct and perform this popular annual 90-minute program of short scenes on a variety of topics and in a variety of styles, many written by RC students. *8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. $5 (students, $3). 647–4354.*

"Stage Door": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Delicate Balance": P.T.D. Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Gary Gulman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Fri.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring hard-soled shoes. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. *8:45–11:45 p.m., Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5 (includes lessons; students, $3). 972–9141, 417–9857.*

"The Dykes of March": \aut\ Bar. All women invited for dancing to recorded music. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., \aut\ Bar, 315 Braun Ct. Free admission. 994–3677.*

7 SATURDAY

★**"Sunrise Saturday Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday.* Very slow-paced 22-mile ride to Dexter for breakfast. Begins at sunrise. *Sunrise, meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 662–0205.*

★**"Sicko": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** Screening of Michael Moore's blistering and influential 2007 documentary about the sorry state of the American health care system. Discussion follows. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. *9:45 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

"Sciencepalooza": Hands-On Museum. *Mar. 7 & 8.* A popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area with hands-on experiments and activities. This month's program: **"Car Carnival."** *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Mar. 7) & noon–4 p.m. (Mar. 8), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular admission. 995–5439.*

Project Grow. *Every Sat.* Part of a series of 5 programs presented by Project Grow instructors. Today: Project Grow instructor Royer Held discusses **"Enjoying and Preserving Heirloom Vegetable Varieties in Your Garden."** Also this month: Project Grow instructor Michella Kuhar presents an **"Introduction to Beekeeping"** (Mar. 14), Royer Held discusses **"Potato Seeds, Seed Potatoes, and Sweet Potato Slips: Growing Potatoes in Michigan"** (Mar. 21), and Cornman Farm manager Mark Baerwolf discusses **"Cultivating Flavor"** (Mar. 28). *10 a.m.–noon (Mar. 7, 14, & 28) & 1–2 p.m. (Mar. 14), Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free; donation appreciated. 996–3169.*

★**"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department.** *Every Sat.* Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M faculty and local physics experts. Today: astronomy professor Nuria Calvet on **"Building Planets: When and How?"** Also this month: University Lowbrow Astronomers members on **"Amateur Astronomy: From Ann Arbor to the Universe"** (Mar. 14), astronomy professor Doug Richstone on **"Supermassive Black Holes and the Evolution of Galaxies"** (Mar. 21), and astronomy



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Economic crises on an international scale are not new, and President Ford inherited a tough one in 1974. A new exhibit at the Ford Library in Ann Arbor shows how he attacked a witch's brew of inflation, recession, budget deficits, and oil supply worries.

The exhibit features rarely seen artifacts and archival materials from Ford Library and Museum collections.

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PROGRAM

Passacaglia on a Theme by Handel for Violin and Cello — *Johan Halvorsen*
Trio No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 97 ("Archduke") — *Ludwig van Beethoven*
Quintet in A Major for Piano and Strings, D. 667 ("The Trout") — *Franz Schubert*

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Slatkin String Quartet

Quartet in F Minor, Op. 95 ("Serioso"), final movement — *Ludwig van Beethoven*

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professor Marta Volonteri on **"Black Holes along the Cosmic Time"** (Mar. 28). *10–11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 764–4437.*

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway.** *Mar. 7 & 14.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m.–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. $16 to race. (313) 565–2815.*

★**Storytime: Nicola's Books.** *Every Sat.* Storytelling program for kids under age 7. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Sat.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids. Also, the Mar. 14 kids make a pinecone bird feeder and take home a Fancy Nancy butterfly fan, and the Mar. 21 program features a visit from Laura Numeroff's Mouse Cookie with stories and free cookies. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $5 per player; free for spectators. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

★**Waterloo Recreation Area.** Programs presented by WRA park interpreter Kathy Kavanaugh unless otherwise noted. Today: **"Celebrating Galileo: Make Your Own Telescope."** Also this month: **"It's Spring"** (Mar. 21), a hike to explore the sights and sounds of the season. *1 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. Free. 475–3170.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Sat.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2–4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

★**"Dino Day": Barnes & Noble.** Midland paleontologist Joseph "Paleo Joe" Kchodl, author of the children's book *Hidden Dinosaurs* and coauthor of the Dinosaur Detective Club series, talks about dinosaurs. Q&A. *2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

21st Annual Wild Game Dinner: Ann Arbor Elks Lodge. This buffet of wild game offers a chance to sample rabbit, deer, moose, and other delicious wild meats. Door prizes and a raffle. Proceeds benefit local charities. *2:30 p.m. (doors open at 12:30 p.m.), Elks Lodge, 4420 Jackson Ave. Tickets $10 in advance and at the door. 663–1105.*

★**Cooking Demos: Morgan & York.** *Every Sat.* A Morgan & York staffer demonstrates **polenta** (Mar. 7 & 14) and **farm-raised lamb** (Mar. 21 & 28). Tastings. Preceded at 2 p.m. by **wine talks.** *3–4 p.m., Morgan & York, 1928 Packard. Free. 662–0798.*

"Dreaming a Place: Environmental Dance": Nightfire Dance Theater. Nightfire director Irena Nagler leads a session of environmental dancing in an outdoor setting, accompanied by music and other sound, visual art, and poetry. Participants should bring anything needed for protection from the elements. No experience necessary. Warm beverages provided, but feel free to bring your own to share. *3 p.m., Island Park, 1540 Island Dr. off Maiden Lane between Broadway & Fuller. $5–$20 sliding scale. 996–1772.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a **kids drum circle** ($10) hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *4–5 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★**In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Within the Shadows,*** Brandon Massey's thriller about a young mystery writer whose new love interest is not what she appears to be. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Chili Cook-Off: Bethlehem United Church of Christ. A chance to sample different chili recipes. Also, kids activities, appetizers, and dessert. Followed at 7 p.m. by dancing to the **Bethlehem Band.** *6:15 p.m., Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. 4th Ave. Donation. 665–6149.*

★**Miriam Gershow: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This U-M grad reads from her debut novel ***The Local News,*** an exploration of the complicated bonds between siblings that finds a young woman returning for the first time in years to the hometown where she grew up in the shadow of an older brother who disappeared when she was 16. "*The Local News* achieves two nearly impossible things," says novelist Anthony Doerr. "It's a funny book about harrowing circumstances, and it's a poignant book about high school. Gershow's narrator, Lydia Pasternak, is droll,

Note: Educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Ann Arbor Palestine Film Festival. Tickets $9 (Mar. 11), $10 (Mar. 12), $5 (Mar. 13 & 8 p.m. Mar. 14), & $3 (Mar. 14, 2 p.m.). in advance at brownpapertickets.com. a2palestinefilmfest.org. Various times and locations noted below.

Mar. 11: **"Salt of This Sea"** (Annemarie Jacir, 2008). Drama about a Palestinian American who has a powerful reaction when she travels to Palestine for the first time. Preceded by a short. Michigan Theater, 8 p.m.

Mar. 12: Double bill. **"Laila's Birthday"** (Rashid Masharawi, 2008) is a bittersweet drama about a judge turned taxi driver who has a difficult time getting a cake for his daughter's birthday. **"Driving to Zigzigland"** (Nicole Ballivian, 2006) is a poignant comedy about a young Palestinian man who has to drive a cab to make ends meet when he moves to America. Preceded by a short. U-M Natural Sciences auditorium, 8 p.m.

Mar. 13: Three short films. **"Our Kuffiyyah in London"** (Dalia Al-Kury, 2007) is about the popularity of Palestinians scarves in London. **"Everywhere Was the Same"** (Basma Al-Sharif, 2007) is a drama-fantasy about the July 2006 massacre in Gaza. **"Carried by the Wind"** (Adam Sebire, 2008) is about musicians who play on balconies and rooftops in Bethlehem. Michigan League Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Mar. 14: Triple bill. **"Leila Khaled: Hijacker"** (Lina Makboul, 2005) is a dramatic documentary about the filmmaker's conflicted impressions of the first woman to hijack an airplane in 1969. **"Palestine in Fragments"** (Dominique Dubosc, 2007) intersperses impressionistic images of Palestinian territories with interviews with West Bank Palestinians. **"Hardball"** (Suha Arraf, 2006) is a drama about an underdog Arab Israeli football team that gains a fervent Arab following as the season unfolds. Rackham Auditorium, 2 p.m.

Mar. 14: **"Slingshot Hip Hop"** (Jackie Salloum, 2008). Documentary about Palestinian hip-hop artists. Preceded by a short music video. Rackham Auditorium, 8 p.m.

47th Annual Ann Arbor Film Festival. Tickets: $95 for the entire festival & $55 for weekend passes in advance at brownpapertickets.com, and $9 (students, seniors, & members; $7) per evening show at the door. 995–5356. Michigan Theater, times TBA unless otherwise noted. Updated schedule at aafilmfest.org. The festival also sponsors free panel discussions and lectures (1–3 p.m.) on Mar. 25, 26, and 27 at U-M Work Gallery (306 S. State).

Mar. 24: **"Gala Reception & Short Films."** The oldest and one of the most prestigious film festivals in North America kicks off tonight with an opening reception ($30; members, $20; screening only, $9). Followed by screenings of independent short films TBA.

Mar. 25: **"Film Jam."** Short films by local amateur filmmakers. FREE. 1–2:30 p.m. **"Emily Hubley."** Short films by this festival judge. FREE. 3 p.m. **"Mark Hosler of Negativland."** Talk by this former member of Negativland, an experimental band known for media collages. 7 p.m. **"Competition Screening."** The competition showcases new experimental and independent 16–mm, 35–mm, and digital films and videos in a wide range of genres and of generally high quality—past contributors have included Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, and Brian De Palma. 7:30 & 9 p.m. **"Mock Up on Mu"** (Craig Baldwin). A mockumentary that makes fun of Scientology. Followed by a Q&A with Baldwin. 9:30 p.m.

Mar. 26: **"Rob Todd."** Short films by this festival judge. FREE. 3 p.m. **"Competition Screening."** See above. Tonight: short LGBT films (7 p.m.), short films TBA (9:30 p.m.), and a film TBA (10 p.m.). **"Cry Dr. Chicago"** (George Manupelli, 1971). Experimental non-narrative film that stars avant-garde artists Alvin Lucier and Steve Paxton. 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 27: **"Betsy Bromberg."** Short films by this festival judge. FREE. 3 p.m. **"The Animation Show"** (various directors, 2008). A series of animated shorts by different artists. Followed by a Q&A with one of the filmmakers, Don Hertzfeld. 7 p.m. **"Competition Screening."** See above. Tonight: Short films TBA (8 p.m.) & short animated films. (9:30 p.m.). **"Canyon Cinema Presents."** Avant-garde and experimental works from this San Francisco distributor. 10 p.m.

Mar. 28: **"Competition Screening."** See above. Today: Family-friendly shorts (1 p.m.), short films TBA (1:30 p.m.), films TBA (3:30 p.m.), and narrative short films (7:30 p.m.). **"Automorphosis"** (Harrod Blank, 2008). Documentary about people who turn their cars into works of art. Followed by a Q&A with Blank. 3 p.m. **"Bruce Conner Retrospective #1."** Excerpts of the late renowned filmmaker's work. Introduced by former festival judge Michelle Silva. 7 p.m. **"RiP: A Remix Manifesto"** (Brett Gaylor). Documentary about copyright issues and the sometimes blurred line between user and producer. 9 p.m.

Mar. 29: **"Competition Screening."** See above. Today: short films "made in Michigan" (1 p.m.). **Hitoshi Toyoda.** This Tokyo artist presents his impressionistic silent slide shows. Followed by a Q&A. 1:30 p.m. **"Bruce Conner Retrospective #2."** See above. 3:30 p.m. **"Kassim the Dream"** (Kief Davidson, 2008). Documentary about the world champion Ugandan boxer who was kidnapped at age 6 and trained to be a soldier in the rebel army. 3 p.m. **"Awards Screening."** 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Mar. 27:* Film TBA. Followed by discussion. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.), 7 p.m.

M-Flicks. FREE. 763–1107. U-M Natural Science Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Mar. 6: **"The Fifth Element"** (Luc Besson, 1997). Sci-fi adventure set in 23rd-century New York, where a cab driver must save the world from impending evil. Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich, Gary Oldman.

Mar. 13: **"Se7en"** (David Fincher, 1995). Thriller about two cops, one new and one about to retire, who investigate a serial killer using the seven deadly sins as his MO. Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman.

Mar. 20: **"2001: A Space Odyssey"** (Stanley Kubrick, 1968). Mesmerizing, never-stale sci-fi epic, based on an Arthur C. Clarke story, about an interplanetary search for a strange monolith possibly linked to human origins.

Mar. 26: **"The Motorcycle Diaries"** (Walter Salles, 2004). Biopic about a young Che Guevara's 8-month motorcycle ride through the back roads of Latin America with friend Alberto Granado that kick-started Guevara's activist career.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually more than once each, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $9 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $7; MTF members, $6.50). Michigan Theater, times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 27–Mar. 5: **"Waltz with Bashir"** (Ari Folman, 2008). Animated memoir of the director's experience as an Israeli soldier in the 1982 Lebanon War. Hebrew, German, English; subtitles.

Mar. 2: **"American Graffiti"** (George Lucas, 1973). Four recent or soon-to-be high school grads worried about their futures cruise around Modesto in 1962 to a sound track of over 40 rock 'n' roll hits. Richard Dreyfuss, Cindy Williams, Ron Howard, Harrison Ford.

Mar. 6–12: **"Two Lovers"** (James Gray, 2008). Romantic drama about a bachelor who moves back in with his parents and must choose between the family friend they want him to marry and his attractive new neighbor.

Mar. 8: **"Popeye"** (Robert Altman, 1980). Robin Williams stars as the spinach-eating sailor man who falls in love with Olive Oyl and saves his seaside town from the mean-spirited pirate Bluto. Shelley Duval. Kids age 12 & under, FREE. 1:30 p.m.

Mar. 9: **"Animal House"** (John Landis, 1978). Classic slapstick comedy about a delinquent frat house. John Belushi, Tom Hulce, Peter Riegert.

Mar. 13: **"Millers Creek Film Festival."** Short films by local residents that detail the connection between people and Millers Creek, which runs to the Huron River south from Thurston Pond and is called "the smallest and most dramatic creek in the Huron River system." Prizes and refreshments. FREE. 4:30 p.m.

Mar. 13–19: **"The Class"** (Laurent Cantet, 2008). Drama about a sensitive teacher's difficulties with his high school students in a tough Parisian neighborhood. French, subtitles.

Mar. 16: **"Fast Times at Ridgemont High"** (Amy Heckerling, 1982). Classic 80s teen comedy. Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Mar. 18: **"FemLink"** (Various directors, 2006). A video collage of 17 short films by women from different countries. Sponsored by the Women's Caucus for Art. $5. 7 p.m.

Mar. 20–23 (tentative): **"Gomorrah"** (Matteo Garrone, 2009). Crime drama about 5 Italians whose lives are touched by the mob. Italian, Mandarin, French; subtitles.

Mar. 23: **"Dazed and Confused"** (Richard Linklater, 1993). Stoner comedy set around the lives of high school and junior high students on the last day of school in 1976.

Mar. 30: **"Superbad"** (Greg Mottola, 2007). Teen comedy about the lengths to which a high school dude will go to get laid. Jonah Hill, Michael Cera, Seth Rogen.

Mar. 30 & 31: **"The Pool"** (Chris Smith, 2007). Drama about a poor Indian boy obsessed with a swimming pool in an opulent neighborhood. Hindi, subtitles.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church. **"Family Movie Night."** FREE. Refreshments. 663–7511. St. Thomas, 10001 Ellsworth (west of Parker). 7 p.m.

Mar. 28: **"The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian"** (Andrew Adamson, 2008). Family fantasy based on C. S. Lewis's novel about 4 siblings who travel to a parallel universe to save its inhabitants from an evil king.

U-M Campus Chapel. FREE. 668–7421. Campus Chapel Center for Faith and Scholarship (1236 Washtenaw Ct.), 8 p.m.

Mar. 21: **"The Lives of Others"** (Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2006). An East German Stasi interrogator assigned to spy on a suspect playwright and his girlfriend becomes dangerously interested in their lives. German, subtitles.

U-M Center for Chinese Studies Documentary Film Series. FREE. 764–6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 7 p.m. *Mar. 7:* **"Love and Sex in China"** (Annemarie Gallone, 2008). Documentary about how growth and change in China has affected traditional relationships between men and women that centers on the perspective of a young Beijing journalist whose parents have just divorced and whose own marriage is unraveling. Mandarin, subtitles.

Mar. 21: **"The Bird's Nest: Herzog and de Meuron in China"** (Christoph Schaub & Michiag Schindheim, 2008). Documentary about the 5-year effort to design and construct National Stadium for the 2008 Olympics. Mandarin & English, subtitles.

U-M Center for Korean Studies. FREE. 764–2522. Lorch Hall Askwith Auditorium, 611 Tappan, 7 p.m.

Mar. 12: **"The Wedding Campaign"** (Byeong-guk Hwang, 2005). Romantic comedy about 2 bachelor farmers who travel to Uzbekistan to find brides with the help of a questionable matchmaking company. Korean, subtitles.

U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. FREE. 615–3194. Hatcher Library Gallery, Room 100. 7 p.m.

"Frank's Picks Film Series." Screenings of several films chosen and introduced by U-M screen arts & culture professor emeritus Frank Beaver.

Mar. 5: **"Secret Honor"** (Robert Altman, 1984). A fictionalized Richard Nixon dictates a stream-of-consciousness memoir into a tape recorder.

Mar. 10: **"The Bicycle Thief"** (Vittorio De Sica, 1947). Classic drama about a poor Italian worker and his young son who spend a day desperately searching for the stolen bicycle on which they depend for their livelihood. Italian, subtitles.

Mar. 12: **"The Garden of the Finzi-Continis"** (Vittorio De Sica, 1970). Drama about a young middle-class Jewish guy who falls in love with an aristocratic Jew in Ferrara, Italy, just before WW II. Italian, subtitles.

Mar. 17: **"The Scent of Green Papaya"** (Tran Anh Hung, 1994). Drama about a young servant who has an affair with her employer. Vietnamese, subtitles.

U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. *Mar. 21:* **"Animania."** Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. This month: ***Macross Frontier*** is a TV series about the adventures aboard a spaceship of people fleeing Earth after alien invaders threaten them with extinction. ***Natsume Yujin Cho*** is a TV series about an orphan who can see spirits. Feature films TBA. Raffle. U-M campus admission policy: No one under 18 admitted without an adult. FREE. umich.edu/~animania. MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer, 10 a.m.–midnight.

WCBN-FM. FREE admission. 763–3500. Arbor Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 9 p.m. *Mar. 11:* **"Wild Style"** (Charlie Ahearn, 1982). Early hip-hop documentary, featuring Fab 5 Freddy, Cold Crush Brothers, Rock Steady Crew, Grandmaster Flash, Busy Bee, and others.

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see calendar listing for details

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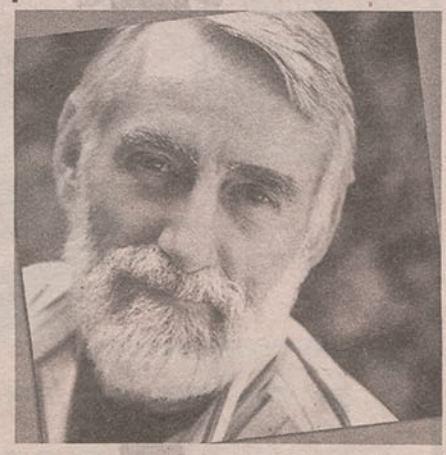
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Volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County will be at the museum the first Sunday of each month during the exhibition to help patrons discover their own immigrant story.

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Annual Benefit Recital: Dance Alliance Repertory Company. Preprofessional youth dancers ages 8–18 from Saline and Ann Arbor perform jazz, ballet, pointe, tap, hip-hop, and modern dance. Proceeds benefit Amity, an organization for patients at Mott Children's Hospital and their families. *7 p.m., Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. $13 in advance at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium in Ann Arbor) and Dance Alliance (811 W. Michigan in Saline), and at the door. 429–9599.*

★**"The Baltimore Waltz": U-M Basement Arts.** See 5 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"On the Street Where We Live": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Ben Cohen directs this 24-member local vocal ensemble in works that celebrate vibrant street life, including songs from *West Side Story, The Music Man,* and *Brigadoon. 7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. $15 (seniors age 65 & older and students, $12). 665–7823, 741–7451.*

"22nd Annual Storytelling Festival": The Ark. *Mar. 7 & 8.* Storytelling continues to enjoy a renaissance as a form of popular entertainment, and the Ark's annual festival features performances by top-notch storytellers from around the country and the state. Headliners are **Antonio Sacre,** a Hollywood-based storyteller known for humorous, touching bilingual stories that draw on his experiences growing up in a bicultural Cuban and Irish American household, and **Sue Black,** a Chicago-based storyteller who weaves personal stories and folktales with songs and music. Opening acts are local storytellers **Beverly Black** and **Jeff Doyle.** *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 (Mar. 7) & $10 (Mar. 8 children's concert) in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Danny, the Champion of the World": Young Actors Guild. See 6 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Campus Star Party: U-M LS&A Universe Theme Semester.** All invited to look at the night sky through telescopes provided by the University Lowbrow Astronomers and the U-M Student Astronomical Society. *8 p.m.–midnight, Ingalls Mall (between North University and E. Washington near Burton Memorial Tower). Free. 764–0478.*

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Martha Vander Kolk calls to music by Dr. Grangelove. No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 769–1052.*

"Charityfest Concert": Michigan A Cappella Council. Several U-M a cappella groups perform a variety of lively pop and R&B songs. Proceeds benefit charities TBA. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and $10 at the door. 763–TKTS.*

New York Philharmonic: University Musical Society. *Mar. 7 & 8 (different programs).* Lorin Maazel conducts this orchestra noted for its clean and punctual tone, and especially strong brass and percussion sections. Although no longer at the top of its game, as it was in the 60s under Leonard Bernstein, the ensemble is the oldest orchestra in the United States and still noted for a deft technical prowess that one critic calls "orchestral legerdemain." Tonight's program: Mendelssohn's overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* Schumann's Symphony no. 4 in D Minor, and Ravel's arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$125 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Mr. B's Annual Birthday Bounce": Kerrytown Concert House. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Celtic Journey": U-M Leim Irish Dance. Irish dancing by this U-M student ensemble. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $8 (students & kids 12 & under, $5). 668–8397.*

"An Evening of Scenes": U-M Residential College Players. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Stage Door": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Delicate Balance": P.T.D. Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Gary Gulman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** *Mar. 7 & 21.* Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *9 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (Mar. 7) & Michigan Union Wolverine Room (Mar. 21). Free. 973–2338.*

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. *Mar. 7, 20, & 28.* All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing, With recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ Mike Jackson (Mar. 7 & 28) and live classic rock, blue, and blues rock by the **Wiley Coyote Band** (Mar. 20), a Plymouth quintet led by singer-bassist Paul Wiley Smith. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 433–1668.*

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. *Mar. 7 & 21.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, 1785 W. Stadium. $5. 945–8428.*

★**"Late Night with Mike Kelton": U-M Basement Arts.** Stand-up comedy by U-M theater student Kelton. Also, live music by a band TBA. *11 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basement@umich.edu.*

8 SUNDAY

★**"Zen Ox-Herding Pictures": Zen Buddhist Temple.** *Mar. 8, 15, & 29.* A series of 3 talks by artist and anthropologist Chajang Terry Beamsley, a former Toledo Museum of Art assistant director. *10:15–11 a.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761–6520.*

★**"Cardboard Cake Decorating": Ann Arbor Art Center.** Kids ages 5–18 and their families invited to decorate cardboard cakes with recycled materials for the Art Center's 100th birthday. The cakes will be displayed at WineFest 2009. *Noon–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Free. Reservations recommended. 994–8004, ext. 116.*

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Everyone from kindergartners to adults invited to play chess. Chess sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

"22nd Annual Storytelling Festival": The Ark. See 7 Saturday. Today's show is a **children's concert.** 1 p.m.

★**"Orchid Growers' Travels": Ann Arbor Orchid Society.** Talk by club members Duane Duman, Judy Lobato, Susan Haddock, and (tentatively) an orchid expert TBA. Also, an orchid show-and-tell, orchid sales, a silent auction, raffles, and a chance to grill experts on problem plants. Refreshments. *1:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–0756.*

★**"Discover a Universe of Robots": Ann Arbor District Library.** Members of the Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Robotics Club demonstrate and discuss their robots for everyone from kindergartners to adults. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

★**"Planting and Pruning": Huron Valley Rose Society.** Talk by a rose gardener TBA. *2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 277–0112.*

"Danny, the Champion of the World": Young Actors Guild. See 6 Friday. 2 p.m.

"A Delicate Balance": P.T.D. Productions. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Stage Door": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space! Missions into Space": U-M Exhibit Museum/Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 (accompanied by an adult) invited to survey the history of space exploration, survival in space, and future spacecrafts. Also, a chance to launch a rocket and prepare a space meal. *Note:* On Mar. 21, this program is presented at the AADL Malletts Creek Branch (3090 E. Eisenhower Pkwy.) at 10 a.m. and at the AADL Traverwood Branch (3333 Traverwood Dr. at Huron Pkwy.) at 2 p.m. *3–4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. Preregistration required. 764–0480.*

★**"Belt Advancement": Ann Arbor Quest Martial Arts.** Quest students demonstrate their martial arts skills. Also, several students are tested for their black belts. Followed by pizza. *3:30 p.m., Scarlett Middle School, 3300 Lorraine. Free. 332–1800.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 1 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

"Father Pat's Feast": Catholic Social Services. A traditional Irish dinner with live music by a band TBA to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Father Patrick Jackson House, a residential program serving teenage mothers and their babies. *4 p.m., Old St. Pat's parish hall, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. at Northfield Church (3 miles north of Ann Arbor). $75. Reservations requested by Feb. 27. 971–9781, ext. 323.*

Community Drum Circle: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. All invited to join a group drumming session led by certified drum circle facilitator Don Allen. Bring your own drum, or use one of Arts in Motion's. *4–5:30 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. Reservations requested. 222–6246.*

★**"Booked for Murder" Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 novels about journalism. Michael Connelly's ***The Poet*** is about a crime reporter who must track down the poetic killer who murdered the writer's brother and made it look like suicide. Denise Hamilton's ***The Jasmine Trade*** is about an L.A. reporter who uncovers a Chinese prostitution ring while she investigates a murder. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***The Immoralist,*** Andre Gide's 1902 novel about a man whose near-death experience with tuberculosis leads him to reject Parisian high society and immerse himself in sensual pleasures. *4:30–6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4168.*

Musique Noire: Kerrytown Concert House. This Latin, funk, and jazz quintet, led by Detroit violinist Michelle May, plays jazz standards and originals by women composers in honor of Women's History Month. *4:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★**Idil Ulgen and Joseph Gurt: EMU Music Department.** EMU piano professor Ulgen and piano professor emeritus Gurt presents program of music for 2 pianos TBA, along with some of Gurt's pieces for 4-hand piano. *5 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"What If God Was Fabulous? The Story of a Gay Orthodox Rabbi": U-M Hillel.** Talk by Steven Greenberg, a rabbi who wrote *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition. 6:30 p.m., U-M Palmer Commons Great Lakes Room, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 769–0500.*

★**"Theology on Tap": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Outreach Committee.** All invited to join an informal discussion of social, theological, and political issues. Tonight: **Food Gatherers** executive director Eileen Spring presents the results of last fall's survey of food securing in Washtenaw County. Discussion follows. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 116 E. Washington. Free. 213–5378.*

New York Philharmonic: University Musical Society. See 7 Saturday. Tonight's program: Berlioz's *Roman Carnival Overture,* Tchaikovsky's Suite no. 3 in G Major, and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. 7 p.m.

9 MONDAY

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Mar. 9 & 23.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available ($2.50). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"How Could I Miss That? Neuronal Control and Enhancement of Attention Capacities": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts.** Lecture by U-M psychology professor Martin Sarter. Reception follows. *4:10 p.m., U-M Alumni Center Founders Room. 200 Fletcher. Free. 998–6251.*

★**Reginald Gibbons: U-M English Department.** Poetry reading by this Northwestern University English professor. "I prefer to make time take its tail in its mouth," says Gibbons, "and to make the poem hold itself still even when it is bursting with motion and energy, as if it were just on the point of release, and were for an instant containing itself and holding itself back for that space of time in which it had life in the mind of the reader." Gibbons also gives a lecture at 5 p.m. on Mar. 12 in Rackham Amphitheater. *5 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 615–3710.*

★**Purim Carnival: Temple Beth Emeth.** All invited to come in costume for a reading of the megillah (Purim story) followed by a carnival with games and prizes. Food available, including the popular triangular Purim cookies hamantaschen. Some greggors (noisemakers) provided, or bring your own. *5:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Rd. Free admission; game tickets 25¢. 665–4744.*

★**"Learning Differences: What's in a Name or Label and How to Move Beyond It": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with Center for Neuropsychology, Learning, and Development clinical neuropsychologist Roger Lauer, Ann Arbor Academy head Peter West, Ann Arbor Academy student George O'Donovan, and parent Jane Capin. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Elmer Ellsworth and the Cult of Zouaves": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table.** Monroe County Historical Society director John Gibney discusses the Union colonel—and the first Union casualty—whose troops wore the uniform of the French colonial troops the Zouaves. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 930–0617.*

★**Natalie Goldberg: Liberty Borders.** This best-selling writer, best known for her books about writing as Zen practice, discusses her new book ***Old Friend from Far Away: The Practice of Writing Memoir.*** Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Desert Lily": National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Washtenaw County.** Detroit-area writer **Peter Pascaris** tells the story behind his novel, which is based on his and his wife's struggle together to overcome her mental illness. *7:30–9:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 994–6611.*

★**"President Obama and the First 100 Days": U-M Ford Presidential Library.** Talk by *New York Times* White House correspondent **Peter Baker.** Followed by reception. *7:30 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal, North Campus. Free. 205–0555.*

★**"Le Chemin de la Croix": U-M School of Music.** U-M organist **Marilyn Mason** performs Marcel Dupre's powerful, wrenching setting of Paul Claudel's poetic meditations on the Stations of the Cross. The music is interspersed with U-M theater professor **Malcolm Tulip's** readings of Claudel's poems. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

10 TUESDAY

★**"Organic Weed Control": Good Thyme Garden Club.** Talk by local gardener Erica Kempter. *10 a.m., Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 663–8577.*

"Sticky Mosaics": Tree Town Toys. *Mar. 10 & 17.* Kids invited to make a mosaic art work using colorful sticky foam squares. Participants also receive a mosaic pattern to take home. *11 a.m., Tree Town Toys, Traver Village, 2611 Plymouth Rd. $4. 929–6545.*

★**"Interesting Aspects of Franz Liszt": U-M School of Music.** Talk by noted musicologist and Liszt expert Alan Walker. *11:30 a.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Civil Space and the National Agenda": U-M Annual Henry Russel Lecture.** Lecture by U-M space science professor **Lennard Fisk**. The Russel Award is the U-M's highest honor, awarded annually to a faculty member who is especially distinguished in his or her field. Reception follows. *4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 647–7906.*

★**Mothers and More.** *Mar. 10 & 26 (different locations).* Discussion group for moms who have adjusted their careers to spend more time with their children. Today: U-M Center for Sustainable Systems program coordinator Helaine Hunscher gives a talk on **"Personal Choices That Make Global Differences."** Also this month: **"Recharge Your Batteries"** (Mar. 26), a discussion on ways to destress. Light refreshments. *7–9 p.m., 310 S. Ashley (Mar. 10) & location TBA (Mar. 26). Free. 527–6880.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & older invited to discuss ***Guards! Guards!,*** Terry Pratchett's novel about a noble dragon, believed extinct, that reappears in a large city. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★**Jesse Ball: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This School of the Art Institute of Chicago professor, a widely acclaimed young poet and novelist, reads ***The Way Through Doors,*** an experimental comic novel about a man entrusted with the care of an amnesiac woman who tells her a series of stories, hoping she'll recognize herself in one of his tales. The *New Yorker* calls the novel "exquisite, a puzzle whose solution is ultimately immaterial to its beauty." Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Nothing but a Smile": Nicola's Books.** *See review, p. 37.* Local fiction writer **Steve Amick** reads from and discusses his new novel about the unconventional romance between a woman who makes ends meet by producing pinup photos for WW II soldiers and the tenant who lives above her camera shop. "As [Amick] immerses us richly and authentically in an era essential to the formation of our national identity, he offers us something just as rare: a tale that serves as a reminder, when we need it most, of why America remains a country with a vast potential for greatness," says novelist Julia Glass. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Kitty Donohoe and Jan Krist: Ann Arbor District Library.** An evening of songs and stories about women by these 2 veteran Detroit-area musicians. Donohoe is an Irish American roots-music singer-songwriter who specializes in story songs, and Krist is a singer-songwriter known for lean, poetic lyr-

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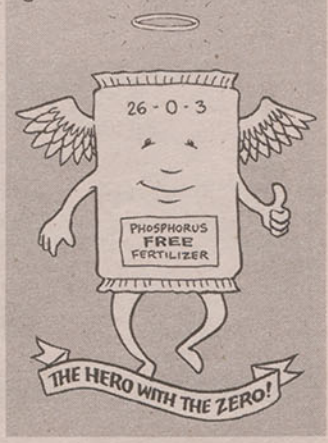
Phosphorus, a nutrient found in most lawn fertilizers, is a problem for the Huron River. It promotes the rapid growth of algae, which crowds out beneficial water plants and depletes the water of oxygen. It gets in by hitching a ride with the rain water that runs off our lawns and paved surfaces into the storm drains.

If you do use manufactured lawn fertilizer:

- Switch to phosphorus free, the kind with "0" as the middle number. Phosphorus is naturally abundant in southeast Michigan soils. You can always get your soil tested to find out exactly what your lawn needs.
- Minimize the amount of fertilzer you use. Follow package directions carefully.
- Apply it during dry weather and follow with a light sprinkling to aid absorption. Take care not to let it run off your yard or paved surfaces into the storm drains.

City of Ann Arbor Residents

Per your local ordinance, you may not apply lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus. Look for brochures with the details at your local lawn and garden retailer or go to www.a2gov.org/green.



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March Madness at UMS

A phenomenal month of great performances for everyone!



New York Philharmonic

Lorin Maazel music director
SAT, MAR 7 | 8 PM
SUN, MAR 8 | 7 PM [NOTE TIME]
Hill Auditorium

The New York Philharmonic returns for the first time since February 2005 with two concerts and an educational residency that includes dozens of free master classes and educational opportunities for students at the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance. The concerts are conducted by Lorin Maazel, who finishes his last season as music director of the New York Philharmonic.

PROGRAM (SAT 3/7)

Mendelssohn	A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture (1826)
Schumann	Symphony No. 4 in d minor, Op. 120 (1841)
Mussorgsky	Pictures at an Exhibition, arr. Ravel (1874/ arr. 1922)

PROGRAM (SUN 3/8)

Berlioz	Roman Carnival Overture, Op. 9 (1843-44)
Tchaikovsky	Suite No. 3 in G Major, Op. 55 (1884)
Stravinsky	The Rite of Spring (1913)

The New York Philharmonic Weekend is sponsored by **Brian and Mary Campbell.**

The Saturday performance is sponsored by University of Michigan Health System

The Saturday performance is hosted by **MainStreet Ventures.**

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**

Media Sponsors **Detroit Jewish News, WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**







Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis

TUE, MAR 10 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium



"[The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra] is not just a band on tour, but a religious congregation, spreading the word of jazz." (*Down Beat*) The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra is a 15-member ensemble comprised on the finest jazz players on the scene, led by the incomparable Wynton Marsalis. They perform a unique repertoire of big band arrangements of Thelonious Monk compositions; classic Blue Note Records selections by Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, Jackie McLean, and Lee Morgan; and modern compositions and arrangements by current band members, highlighting the individuals who join together to create this band's unmistakable sound.

Sponsored by **Laurence and Beverly Price.**

Hosted by **Sesi Motors.**

Media Sponsors **WEMU 89.1 FM, Metro Times, Ann Arbor's 107one,** and **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page.**



Brentano String Quartet
Peter Serkin piano
Thomas Meglioranza baritone

WED, MAR 11 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium



PROGRAM

Haydn	String Quartet in d minor, Op. 76, No. 2 ("Quinten") (Hob. III:76) (1796-97)
Wuorinen	New Piano Quintet (commissioned by the artists)
Schoenberg	Ode to Napoleon, Op. 41 (for quartet, piano, and baritone) (1942)
Beethoven	Grosse Fuge, Op. 133 (1825-26)

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**

Media Sponsors **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**









130th Season **2008 09 UMS**

Aswat (Voices)

Simon Shaheen artistic director
Ibrahim Azzam | Sonia M'barek | Khalil Abonula
Rima Khcheich | the Aswat Orchestra
THU, MAR 12 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

One of today's leading Arab composers and instrumentalists, Simon Shaheen is resurrecting the Arab world's golden age of song. Working with a traditional Arab orchestra and some of the leading singers in the Arab world today, Shaheen directs this evening of classic, unforgettable melodies, soul-stirring voices, and lush orchestral arrangements, authentically recreating and interpreting the sights and sounds of this magical time. Shaheen's international search for the top Arab singers of today includes Tunisian, Lebanese, and Palestinian vocalists who will sing some of the most beloved songs of all time by Mohammad Abdel Wahhab, Farid Al-Atrash, Wadi Al-Safi, and the Rahbani Brothers. The Aswat Orchestra includes virtuoso instrumentalists who deliver a rich musical experience for devotees and new fans alike. As a backdrop to the live performance, a projection screen flashes preserved images and film footage of the great singers of the Golden Age, creating a multimedia experience of historical depth and lasting emotional impact.

The Performing Arts of the Arab World series is supported in part by **TAQA New World, Inc; National Endowment for the Arts; The Mosaic Foundation, Washington DC; Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan;** and **Bustan al-Funun Foundation for Arab Arts.**
Media Sponsors **The Arab American News** and **ArabDetroit.com.**

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma artistic director

FRI-SAT, MAR 13-14 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

"Yo-Yo Ma is part modern Marco Polo, an explorer of cultures far beyond his own; part musical missionary, eager to share ideas and make vital connections between peoples." (*Chicago Tribune*) For about 2,000 years, the Silk Road was the main conduit for the exchange of goods, ideas, religions, and culture, connecting people from Asia to the Mediterranean. Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project features internationally regarded musicians who explore relationships between tradition and innovation in music from the East and West. After last season's stunning solo recital, Yo-Yo Ma returns with two different performances featuring artists from the Silk Road Ensemble. Complete program details at www.ums.org.

The Friday performance is sponsored by KeyBank

The Friday performance is sponsored by the **Catherine S. Arcure and Herbert E. Sloan Endowment Fund.**
The Saturday performance is sponsored by **Robert and Pearson Macek.**
The 08/09 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**
Media Sponsors **Ann Arbor's 107one, WGTE 91.3 FM,** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Altenberg Trio Vienna

WED, MAR 18 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

Since its "official" debut during the Salzburg Mozart Week in January 1994, the Altenberg Trio Vienna has earned a reputation as one of the most daring ensembles of its kind. They named their ensemble after the revered 19th-century Viennese writer and poet Peter Altenberg. Their choice illustrates perfectly the values captured in the Trio's music-making: love of beauty, venture toward life, precision of style, and a sense of humor. The trio members have impressive individual reputations in chamber music circles and take great pride in remaining faithful to the style and tradition of the "Viennese sound."

PROGRAM

Takemitsu	Between Tides (1993)
Haydn	Piano Trio in C Major, Hob. XV:21 ("Pastoral") (1794)
Dvořák	Piano Trio in f minor, Op. 65 (1883)

Media Sponsors **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Zakir Hussain tabla
Pandit Shivkumar Sharma santoor

SUN, MAR 22 | 7 PM [NOTE TIME]
Rackham Auditorium

Zakir Hussain is appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. A classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, he is a national treasure in his own country and abroad due to his consistently brilliant and exciting performances. He is joined by Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, who singlehandedly transformed the santoor from an instrument of accompaniment to one that deserves center stage.

Media Sponsor **WEMU 89.1 FM.**

50th Anniversary Concert
The Romeros

THU, MAR 26 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

A veritable institution in the world of classical music, the Romeros celebrate their 50th anniversary this season. Celedonio Romero, the founder and creator of the Romeros guitar dynasty, was a renowned soloist in Spain who began teaching his sons as they approached the age of two or three. He died in 1996, but his sons and grandsons continue Celedonio's legacy. This unparalleled family ensemble has become the international emissary for guitar chamber music.

Co-Sponsored by Edward Surovell Realtors | MC3

Media Sponsor **Metro Times.**

Special One-Hour Family Performances!
Dan Zanes & Friends

SUN, MAR 29 | 1 PM & 4 PM
Rackham Auditorium

Performing exuberant, irresistible handmade music for enthusiastic crowds of kids and kids-at-heart, Dan Zanes and his band draw on a wealth of musical traditions, creating a rollicking "Woodstock for Kids" that is filled with rootsy, whimsical songs brimming with warmth, wisdom, and wonderful music. Their downright homespun performance style gives the cozy feeling that a bunch of wildly talented friends and neighbors just got together to have some fun — and you're invited.

The 08/09 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**
Sponsored by **Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein.**
Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**
Media Sponsors **Ann Arbor's 107one** and **Metro Times.**

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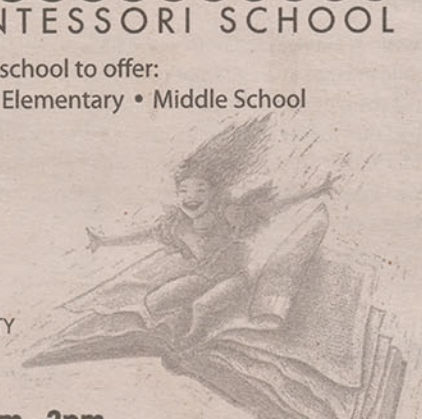
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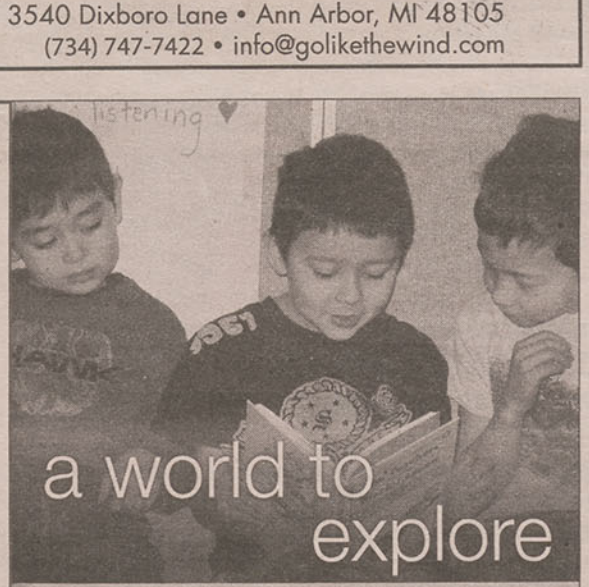
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ics and inventive melodies. In celebration of Women's History Month. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss ***Wind: How the Flow of Air Has Shaped Life, Myth, and the Land,*** Jan DeBlieu's poetic study of wind, from creation stories to meteorology to personal anecdotes about her own windy culture on North Carolina's Outer Banks. *7:15 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

Wynton Marsalis & Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra: University Musical Society. Lincoln Center artistic director Marsalis, a Pulitzer Prize–winning composer-trumpeter, leads the orchestra in big-band arrangements of Thelonious Monk works and classic Blue Note Records works by Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, Jackie McLean, Lee Morgan, and others. Regarded as the finest large jazz ensemble performing today, these musicians play with "tight intensity and real swing," says a musicweb-international.com reviewer of a 2007 concert. "They relish dynamic changes and shifts in tone, bringing the music to life with technical mastery the original bands could seldom muster." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$54 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

11 WEDNESDAY

Spring Concert: Society for Musical Arts. Performances by the 13–to–18-year-old winners of the society's recent Youth Music Competition. Followed by a meet-the-artist lunch ($12). *10:30 a.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $15 (accompanying friend, $13; students, $5) at the door only. Lunch reservations required. 662–3279.*

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Brown Bag Lecture Series. *Mar. 11 & 25.* A U-M librarian TBA discusses tips for **searching the library catalog** for gardening topics (Mar. 11) and U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens natural areas manager Jeff Plakke discusses **prescribed burns** (Mar. 25). *Noon–1 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $3 (members, free). Preregistration requested. 647–7600.*

★Group Drumming: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. *1:30–2:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★Whole Kids Club: Washtenaw and Cranbrook Whole Foods Markets. *Mar. 11 & 21 (different locations).* All kids ages 3–12, accompanied by a parent, invited to plant seeds to take home. Bring an empty fiber egg carton. *3:30 p.m., Washtenaw Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw (Mar. 11) & 1 p.m., Cranbrook Whole Foods, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center (Mar. 21). Free. 975–4500, 997–9707.*

★"Museums, Histories, and the Dilemmas of Change in Post-Apartheid South Africa": U-M Museum Studies. Talk by University of the Western Cape (South Africa) history professor **Leslie Witz.** *4 p.m., 5670 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 936–6678.*

★"Dark Energy and the Accelerating Universe": U-M Exhibit Museum Science Cafe. Short presentations by U-M physics professors Dragan Huterer and Tim McKay. Followed by discussion. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by free hors d'oeuvres. *6–7:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 763–4191.*

Food Tastings: Zingerman's Delicatessen. *Mar. 11, 17, 25, & 31.* Zingerman's staff and guest food experts discuss and offer taste samples of various gourmet delights. Today: the small French bean-to-bar chocolate company **"Pralus."** Also this month: Neal's Yard Dairy (London) owner Randolph Hodgson and cheesemaker Joe Schneider on **"British Cheeses"** (Mar. 17), **"Bar Food: Dips, Spiced Nuts, and Virgin Cocktails"** (Mar. 25), and **"Truffles"** (Mar. 31). *7–9 p.m. (7–8 p.m. on Mar. 11), Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $20 ($15 on Mar. 11, $30 on Mar. 31) in advance, $25 ($20 on Mar. 11, $35 on Mar. 31) at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★"Prehistoric Astronomy in the Upper Midwest": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by **Herman Bender,** an amateur astronomer and prominent independent researcher in the growing field of archaeoastronomy. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle,*** David Wroblewski's best-selling coming-of-age novel about a Wisconsin farm boy, born mute, who flees to the wilderness with 3 yearling dogs when his efforts to prove his uncle's complicity in his father's death backfire. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Kyle Minor, Kathleen Rooney, and Dan Wickett: Shaman Drum Bookshop. Readings by these 3 writers. Minor's ***In the Devil's Territory*** is a collection of stories exploring the mysterious complexities of human motivation, ranging from a schoolteacher who escapes East Berlin with 3 elderly relatives and makes her way to West Palm Beach so she can "ruin the lives of 5th-grade boys" to a young husband reckoning with the likelihood that his wife's troubled pregnancy will end with her death before Christmas. Rooney's ***Live Nude Girl: My Life as an Object*** is a lively meditation, part memoir and part historical inquiry, on the profession of art modeling. Wickett reads from ***Visiting Hours and Other Stories,*** a collection he edited of stories about hospitals and illness that Alyson Hagy calls "funny, touching, and buoyed high by the surprising twists of human love." Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★Choir Concert: Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Performances by the **St. Mary's College** (Orchard Lake) Women's Chorus, the **Huron High School** Bel Canto Choir, and the **Ann Arbor Youth Chorale.** *7 p.m., Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. 665–6149.*

★"Trees & Pruning": Ann Arbor Garden Club. Lecture-demo by local arborist Jack Richardson. Coffee and tea provided. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–2015.*

★"Operating 900 MHz": ARROW Communications Association. Milan amateur radio enthusiast Dan Carper discusses how to get on the radio band used for communicating across short distances. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Red Cross, 4624 Packard. Free. 830–6564.*

★History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. EMU history professor emeritus Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur leads a discussion of ***The Post-American World,*** Fareed Zakaria's study of America's waning global influence as countries like China and India expand economically. *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

★Choir & Orchestra Concert: Greenhills School. All the school's choirs and the upper school orchestra perform works TBA. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 769–4010.*

Brentano String Quartet: University Musical Society. Named for Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved," Antonie Brentano, this award-winning ensemble of violinists Mark Steinberg and Serena Canin, violist Misha Amory, and cellist Nina Lee combines energy, color, technical mastery, and musical insight. Though their individual styles vary greatly, "they seem to be listening to the same heartbeat," says a *New York Times* review. The quartet is joined by pianist **Peter Serkin** in Charles Wuorinen's *New Piano Quintet* and a performance of Schoenberg's *Ode to Napoleon* that also features baritone **Thomas Meglioranza.** The program also includes Haydn's String Quartet in D Minor and Beethoven's Grosse Fuge. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $20–$42 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. Today's 3 p.m. show is sold out. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

12 THURSDAY

"Making Better Times out of Hard Times": Washtenaw Area Council for Children. Talk by U-M social work professor John Tropman. Also, lunch. *Noon, Washtenaw Intermediate School District Bldg., 1819 S. Wagner Rd. $15 (students, $10). Reservations requested. 434–4215.*

★"Ann Arbor's Architecture and How the City May Proceed in Regulations to Direct Future Building": Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters. Talk by local architect Carl Luckenbach. *Noon–1 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 665–5808.*

★"Building a Better Food System in Southeastern Michigan": Women's National Farm and Garden Association. Talk by Food System Economic Partnership director Jennifer Fike. *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 995–8441.*

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Japanese ikebana expert Miki Shimomura leads the 3rd in a 4-month series of sessions of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

★"Afghanistan: The Once and Future War": U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies. Panel discussion with Williams College anthropology professor David Edwards, Yale University Afghan studies postdoctoral fellow Alessandro Monsutti, and Indiana University Near Eastern languages and cultures professor Nazif Shahrani. *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★"Mental Causes in Plato's 'Phaedo'": U-M Philosophy Department. Lecture by NYU philosophy

professor Matt Evans. Also, on March 13, Evans discusses **"Lessons of the *Euthyphro* Argument (10a–11b)"** (4–6 p.m., 2171 Angell Hall). *4–6 p.m., 2167A Angell Hall. Free. 764–6285.*

★Richard Saul Wurman: U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series. Talk by this award-winning architect, graphic designer, and Access Travel Guides creator who has made it his life's work to make information more understandable. Wurman's current project, 19.20.21, is a collaborative urban planning study of 19 cities that Wurman believes will become "supercities" with populations of 20 million by 2021. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★Cris Cheek and Robert Fitterman: EMU English Department Bathhouse Reading Series. Poetry readings by Miami University English professor Cheek and NYU English professor Fitterman. *5 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–1310, 657–2337.*

★"Presenting the Past: Upcoming Exhibitions in the New Kelsey Museum": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Lecture Series. *Mar. 12 & 26.* Talks by U-M curators. Today: Elaine Gazda on **"The Romans on Display at the Kelsey Museum."** Also this month: Margaret Root on **"Seleucia-on-the-Tigris: An Ancient City Between East and West"** (Mar. 26). *6–7:30 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 647–4167.*

★"Science for All Ages": Ann Arbor District Library. Hands-on science and engineering experiments and interactive demos for kids in grades K–6 presented by U-M students from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and Proyecto Avance: Latino Mentoring Association. *6:30–7:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

"Stouts": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about 2 of the 5 stouts Arbor Brewing will be serving on St. Patrick's Day. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★"Girls with Grit": Ann Arbor District Library. Storytelling program in honor of Women's History Month featuring AADL director Josie Barnes Parker and AADL youth librarian Laura Pershin Raynor, a former National Storyteller of the Year. The storytellers are joined by musicians Betsy Beckerman and Sara Melton Keller. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Xylem Magazine": Shaman Drum Bookshop. U-M students read their prose and poetry featured in the debut issue of this student-run literary magazine. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of ***Reading Matters: Five Centuries of Discovering Books,*** Margaret Willes's history of book collecting. Refreshments. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

"St. Paddy's Party": Ann Arbor Ski Club. All invited to wear green and bring hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share. Dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. Refreshments available. The evening begins with a club meeting. *7:30–11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 786–2237.*

★Creative Arts Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Mark Kirschenmann directs this adventurous music-student ensemble in a program of entirely improvised music drawing on an array of influences from classical and jazz to pop, folk, and world music. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★"Feminists Are Funny": Guerrilla Girls (EMU Art Department). These radical feminist artists are best known for their posters that promote women and people of color in the arts. Tonight's program is a combination of the group's "herstory," reenactments of some of their street protests, and information about funny female activists. Followed by discussion. *8 p.m., Sponberg Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–0465.*

"Aswat: Celebrating the Golden Age of Arab Music": University Musical Society. Acclaimed oud player and violinist **Simon Shaheen** directs a traditional Arab orchestra and several noted singers from Tunisia, Lebanon, and Palestine in works by early-20th-century Arab composers. Since immigrating to the United States in 1980, Shaheen has worked to blend western rock and jazz with traditional Arab music and to introduce Western audiences to Arabic traditions. "It's so easy to hate and fear something you don't know," says Shaheen. "If [Arabic culture] is kept as a kind of puzzle, in the dark, then definitely there will be hate and fear." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$42 in advance at the Michigan League*

SUMMER



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Classes

Tuesdays	6:15pm to 7:05pm
Thursdays	6:15pm to 7:05pm
Saturdays	10:15am to 11:05am

Classes begin March 24, 2009 through June 6, 2009



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Shooting Stars is an introduction to freestyle skating for badge 6 and above, presented in a fun group class. Skaters will learn a freestyle routine containing jumps and spins as well as continue to improve their skating fundamentals. Off ice dance class included as part of program.
March 28th to June 6th
Saturdays, 9:15 to 10:45am

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These classes will be held on **Tuesdays, 6:15pm to 7:05pm**
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"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Delicate Balance": P.T.D. Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Jamie Lissow: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Mar. 12–14.* Ann Arbor debut of this young comic from upstate New York known for his laid-back style and quick-witted observational humor about various aspects of popular culture. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

13 FRIDAY

Wolverine Classic: GymAmerica. *Mar. 13–15.* Gymnasts from throughout the Midwest compete in this national-level invitational. The upper-level gymnasts compete at 3:30–6:30 p.m. on March 14. *9 a.m.–9 p.m., Saline High School gymnasium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. $10 (students & seniors, $6; kids age 5 & under, free) at the door only. Free tickets available for some groups in advance. 971–1667.*

★**"Silent Feathered Friends": Ann Arbor District Library.** Storytelling program about owls for preschoolers featuring a live Michigan owl from Leslie Science & Nature Center. *10–11 a.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists.** See 6 Friday. Today's organist is **Edward Maki-Schramm.** Noon.

★**Joseph Houseal: U-M Dance Department.** Lecture by this Asian dance specialist, an expert on Noh, Ba Gua, and other ancient movement forms. *4 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Dance Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

★**"Ride Around Town": Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition.** All invited to join a bike ride in a figure–8 loop around the downtown. *6–7 p.m., Liberty Plaza, Liberty at Division. Free. 864–4095.*

"Tea Tasting": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited to sample premium teas from China and Taiwan. *7–8 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. $5. 945–8602.*

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to discuss Ken Wilber's ***Integral Life Practice: A 21st-Century Blueprint for Physical Health, Emotional Balance, Mental Clarity, and Spiritual Awakening.*** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Tales of the Tango": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lecture-demo about the history of the tango by local tango expert Mabel Rodriguez, the U-M Residential College Intermediate Intensive Spanish program coordinator. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

The Ghost Hunters: EMU Convocation Center. The hosts of this SciFi Channel reality show, Roto-Rooter plumbers **Jason Hawes** and **Grant Wilson,** discuss their experiences as members of the Atlantic Paranormal Society investigating hauntings around the country. *7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 in advance at the EMU Convocation Center and at the door. 487–2282.*

"Spring into Action: A Benefit Concert of Community Dances": People Dancing. This classy local modern dance company performs an eclectic program of modern dance. Arts in Motion Studio director Amanda Stanger-Read's multigenerational group work *The Way Down* is set to music by Steve Reich, Marc Mellits, and Kim Sherman and the chants of Tibetan monks. Brook McCloud's *I Am Not My Hair* is performed by a youth ensemble from the Peace Neighborhood Center Arts Academy. Company member Suzanne Willetts-Brooks reprises her group work *We Were Once Women,* a physically intense dance accompanied by an original sound-collage score, and company member Silva Laukkanen's new duet *No Clementines Before Breakfast* features composer-vocalist Amy McKenna's live performance of her original score with singer-banjoist Charles Lowell. People Dancing artistic director Christina Sears-Etter reprises *Seventh Day,* her group dance with music by George Winston, along the repertory piece *Multiverse: glimpse* and *Hither and Yon,* a colorful improvisation in which audience members are invited to participate. Proceeds benefit Heifer International; canned foods donations accepted for Food Gatherers. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. $12 (students & seniors, $10; kids age 8 & under, $8) in advance at Arts in Motion Dance & Music Studio,*

Marcus Belgrave and Michéle Ramo

Intimate swing



Detroit is celebrated as a place of origin for some of the finest musicians in jazz, but it is also a crossroads that has attracted and nurtured fine players from other towns and other lands before sending them back out into the world. When one thinks of musicians such as Paul Chambers, Frank Foster, Sheila Jordan, or Yusef Lateef, their Detroit roots come to mind, but none of them was actually born there.

Two men who grew up far apart—in Pennsylvania and in Sicily—met in Detroit and are now creating new music together. Trumpeter Marcus Belgrave hails from Chester, Pennsylvania. He began to attract attention as a member of the small band that accompanied Ray Charles in the 1960s, but after five years on the road he decided to settle down in Detroit, attracted by the rich jazz scene and session work at Motown Records. He went on the road again with Lloyd Price, but by 1967 he was back, and he has been living there ever since. Belgrave soon became one of the central voices on the local music scene, playing with just about everyone, but also inspiring and mentoring new generations of jazz musicians, among them Rodney Whitaker, Regina Carter, and James Carter. Belgrave is equally at home with traditional jazz, bebop, and the avant-garde, but whatever style he explores, he maintains a recognizable musical identity. Simply put, he is one of the greatest trumpet players in jazz.

Michéle Ramo came to this country from the Sicilian seaside town of Mazara del Vallo, where he started as a classical violinist and then took up the guitar as well. For years he was a member of Italian state symphony orchestras, but an early infatuation with jazz led him to move to the United States, where he settled in Detroit. In the Motor City he played all kinds of music, including his beloved jazz, and met singer Heidi Hepler, who soon became his wife and closest musical partner. Among the people who helped him was, of course, Marcus Belgrave.

Eventually the couple moved to the East Coast, where they work with a wide range of artists of all generations playing jazz, Brazilian music, and the classics. Michéle now plays an eight-string guitar of his own design—it offers the player a seventy-eight-note range, only one octave less than a grand piano. With no frets under the lowest two strings, it's a perfect match to Ramo's complex, pianistic guitar style, allowing him to play single lines, chords, and a walking bass line all at the same time.

Belgrave and Ramo are coming on Friday, March 13, to Kerrytown Concert House to celebrate their new recording, *The Song Is You: A Tribute to Lawrence G. Williams*.

—Piotr Michalowski

Dancer's Boutique, and peopledancing.org, and at the door. 368–7573.

★**Older Lesbians Organizing.** All lesbians invited to discuss **favorite books.** *7:30 p.m., WRAP office (upstairs), 319 Braun Ct. Free. 995–9867.*

★**"Binary Pulsars and Relativistic Gravity": Lecture Series: U-M Astronomy Department.** Lecture by Princeton University physics professor emeritus **Joseph Taylor,** winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physics. *7:30 p.m., 1800 Chemistry, 930 North University. Free. 763–4190.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Mar. 13 & 27.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Lectures on Karmic Relationships,* vol. 6. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

2nd Friday Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. London, Ontario, caller Tom Seiss calls dances to music by Debbie Jackson, Steve Schneider, Brad Battey, and Susie Lorand. For experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

"Darfur Benefit Gala": The Neutral Zone Student Antigenocide Coalition. Dinner and a talk by Darfur Peace and Development (Washington, D.C.) staffer Amal Allagabo. Silent auction. Proceeds benefit the International Rescue Committee Program in Darfur. *8 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. $15 & up. Reservations requested. 214–9995.*

★**Spring Concert: Concordia University Wind Ensemble.** Matthew Wolf directs this music-student ensemble in works by Sousa, Morton Gould, Bernstein, and William Schuman. *8 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995–7300.*

★**Menahem Pressler: U-M School of Music Sally Fleming Concert Series.** This renowned pianist, cofounder of the famed Beaux Arts Trio, is joined by 2 U-M music professors, violinist **Yehonatan Berick** and pianist **Christopher Harding,** for performances of works by Schubert and Mendelssohn. *8 p.m., Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Marcus Belgrave & Michele Ramo: Kerrytown Concert House. *See review, above.* Jazz by the duo of Detroit trumpeter Belgrave—one of the world's great jazz trumpet players—and Sicilian-born guitarist Ramo, who plays an 8-string guitar of his own design. "Belgrave's sensual trumpet melodies roll fragrantly over Ramo's gentle guitar lines like whispers in the wind," says *All about Jazz* critic Jim Santella of the duo's new album *The Song Is You,* a heartfelt tribute to their friend the late Detroit drummer Lawrence Williams. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★**"Dance Jam Improv": U-M Dance Department Dance Student Assembly.** This U-M dance-student ensemble improvises spontaneous performances. *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Dance Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

"Kiss of the Spider Woman": U-M MUSKET. *Mar. 13–15.* Alex Bisker directs U-M students in John Kander and Fred Ebb's dark Tony Award–winning musical based on Manuel Puig's deeply affecting novel about the unlikely intimacy that grows between a jailed Argentinean revolutionary and his free-spirited cellmate, a gay window dresser who's obsessed with a B-movie actress. The show uses "the elaborate machinery of a big Broadway musical to tell the story of an uncloseted, unhomogenized, unexceptional gay man who arrives at his own heroic definition of masculinity," says a *New York Times* critic. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $13 (students with ID,*

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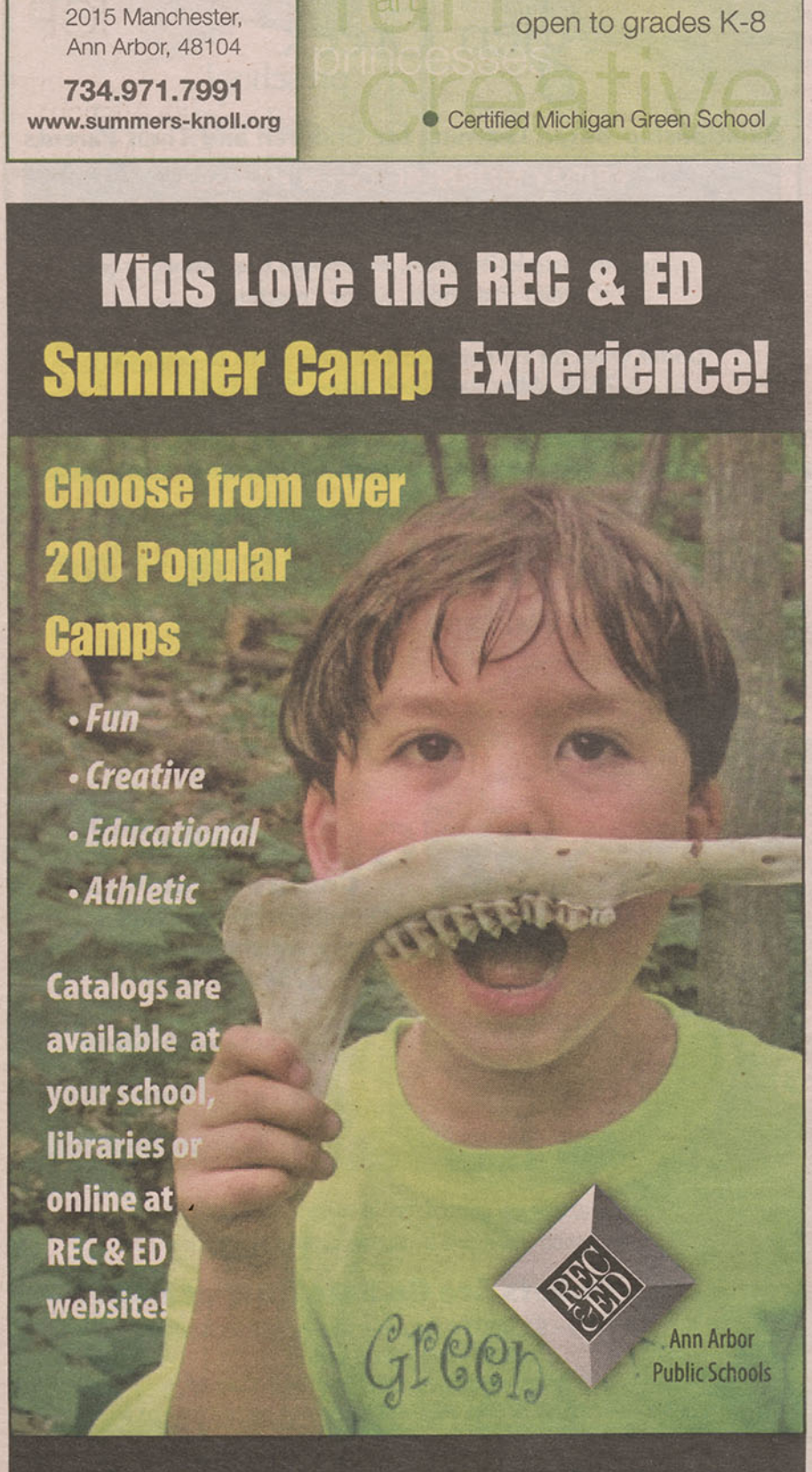


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The Silk Road Ensemble: University Musical Society. *Mar. 13 & 14 (different programs).* Celebrated cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** leads this international musical collective in traditional works by composers from countries along the ancient Silk Road. The ensemble emerged as part of the Silk Road Project, a nonprofit organization founded by Ma in 1998 to promote multicultural artistic exchange. "Yo-Yo Ma is part modern Marco Polo, an explorer of cultures far beyond his own," says a *Chicago Tribune* writer, "part musical missionary, eager to share ideas and make vital connections between peoples." Tonight's program: U-M grad Gabriela Lena Frank's *Ritmos Anchinos,* Evan Ziporyn's *Sulvasutra,* Sapo Perapaskero's *Turceasca.* Also, the celebrated Azerbaijani *mugham* singer Alim Qasimov performs Uzeyir Hajibeyov's *Layla & Majnun,* a piece based on a popular 7th-century Arabic love story. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$100 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"A Delicate Balance": P.T.D. Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Jamie Lissow: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** *Mar. 13 & 27.* All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *9–11 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the 5th floor). Free. 764–3440.*

14 SATURDAY

★**Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** *Mar. 14 & 21 (different locations).* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Mar. 14), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Mar. 21), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. Registration requested. 647–8528.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Mar. 14 & 15.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (517) 605–0624.*

Waterloo Natural History Association. *Mar. 14 & 15:* **Maple Sugar Festival** features demos on how to make maple syrup, a showing of the documentary video *Maple Sugar Farmer,* and sale of maple products. *Mar. 28:* **"Tropical Nature's Animals"** features a hands-on presentation of live rainforest animals by Science Alive representatives. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Mar. 14 & 15) & 2 p.m. (Mar. 28), Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. $2 (family, $5). $4 vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

★**"Natural Health Fair": Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor.** Presentations and demos on a range of topics from nutrition and massage to homeopathy and yoga. Also, a chance to chat with local natural health care practitioners. Sale of natural health products. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Rudolf Steiner High School, 2230 Pontiac Trail. Free. 669–9394.*

★**"Pioneer High School Argus Planetarium": Ann Arbor District Library.** Argus Planetarium director Steve Schaffer introduces kids age 6 through adults to this oldest known public school planetarium in continuous operation in the country. *11 a.m.–noon & noon–1 p.m., Pioneer High School, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Free. Space limited; first come, first seated. 327–4555.*

★**Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Preservation Division.** *March 14 & 28.* All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Also, city staffers lead a short nature walk at the end of each workday. Wear comfortable pants and closed-toe shoes. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. Today: a trip to **Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area** to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle and restore the native ecosystem. Also this month: a trip to **Miller Nature Area** (Mar. 28, noon–3 p.m. meet at the entrance on Arborview, just east of Wildwood off Miller) to clear brush, close old trails, and make new ones. Snack provided. *Noon–3 p.m., meet at Scarlett Middle School parking lot, 3300 Lorraine (off Platt south of Packard). Free. 996–3266.*

★**16th Annual Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl Finals: U-M Center for Japanese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Students from 24 Michigan elementary, middle, and high schools compete in this entertaining competition on Japanese language and culture. *Noon–3 p.m., Modern Languages, 812 E. Washington. Free. 764–6307.*

★**51st Annual Southeast Michigan Science Fair.** Display of 400 science projects by area middle and senior high school students. The middle school division includes models, collections, and experiments. The senior division includes projects involving biochemistry, microbiology, botany, chemistry, geology, the environment, math, computer science, physics, sociology, and zoology. The top 2 individual and team winners go to the Intel International Science Fair, held in May in Reno. *Noon–4 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 615–4455.*

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. *Mar. 14 & 22.* Docent-guided tours, about 30 minutes long, of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–2230.*

Japan Cultural Festival: U-M Japan Student Association. A traditional tea ceremony, traditional dance, and calligraphy, origami, and karate demos. Japanese food. *2–6 p.m., East Hall Atrium, 525 East University. Admission $1. (248) 613–0714.*

★**"Kunqu: A Biographical Introduction to Classical Chinese Opera": Ann Arbor District Library/ U-M School of Music Stearns Lecture.** Talk by renowned Kunqu actress **Zhang Xunpeng.** Kunqu is a traditional Chinese theater style that combines drama, opera, ballet, poetry, and music. *2 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555, 764–0594.*

★**Colleen Gleason: Waters Place Borders.** This U-M grad reads from ***As Shadows Fade,*** the latest installment of her fantasy novel series featuring vampire slayer Victoria Gardella. Signing. *2 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

"Saturday Social Dance": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. All welcome to try a variety of vintage dances to recorded music. Casual; no partner necessary. *3:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $5. 769–0041.*

"Thai Night 2009: A Chronicle of Siam": U-M Thai Student Association. U-M students perform traditional Thai dances, Thai classical music, and Thai martial arts. Also, a Thai buffet. *5–8 p.m., Chrysler Center Chesebrough Auditorium, 2121 Bonisteel, North Campus. Tickets $15 (kids, $10) in advance at tsaum.com and (if available) at the door. 709–1469.*

St. Patrick's Day Dinner: Dixboro United Methodist Church. Succulent corned beef and cabbage, plus beverages and dessert, served family style. "It's an unusually good dinner," says an organizer. Proceeds benefit the church. *5:30 p.m. seatings, DUMC, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). $10 (kids ages 5–10, $5; kids under 5, free). Reservations requested. 665–5632, 663–5269.*

Bockbier Fest: Ann Arbor Schwaben Verein. This annual spring festival features a German dinner followed by dancing to **Tommy Schober & the Sorgenbrechers.** Cash bar. *5:30–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 892, 601 Woodland, Saline. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. Reservations recommended. For reservations, call Walter Hahn at 475–1685 or John Jarvis at 954–0281.*

3rd Annual Benefit Dinner: Ann Arbor Take Back the Night Fund-Raiser. Dinner and dancing to live jazz, blues, classic rock, and country by the **Danny Tyrell Project.** Silent auction. *6 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Tickets $40 in advance at tbtnannarbor.org, $50 at the door. (248) 342–6351.*

"Winter Jam 09": EMU Convocation Center. With several Christian pop musicians, including hip-hop MC **Toby Mac,** the Canadian pop-punk band **Hawk Nelson,** the Georgia pop band **NewSong,** the Dallas rock band **The Afters,** the teen all-female pop-rock trio **Pure NRG,** and singer-songwriter **Stephanie Smith.** *6 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt (north off Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. $10 at the door only. 487–2282.*

U-M Men's Gymnastics vs. Illinois. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

"A Red Carpet Affair: Wishes from the Stars": Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan Fund-Raiser. Dinner, a silent auction, a raffle, and performances by the U-M student a cappella group **Compulsive Lyres** and a U-M tap dance ensemble. Also, short talks by Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan president Susan Lerch and the parent of a wish recipient. Followed by dancing to a DJ. *7–11 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $80 (students, $30) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office. 763–TKTS.*



The Altenberg Trio Vienna plays at Rackham Auditorium Mar. 18.

Benefit Performance and Silent Auction: Community Ensemble Theater. This Community High School troupe presents a family-oriented program of scenes from recent productions, along with selections from Walton Jones's *1940s Radio Hour* and other songs. Also, a silent auction, with low-cost items to appeal to kids and students, as well as adults. Food. A benefit for CET. *7 p.m., Community High School Craft Theater, 401 N. Division. (Parking available in the lot behind the school, N. Fifth Ave. at Detroit St.) $7 (kids, students, & seniors, $5) at the door only. 662–1693, 971–5610.*

"Gospelfest 2009." All invited to sing gospel music with an immense choir drawn from Detroit- and Ann Arbor-area congregations and local Christian ensembles. Rehearsals 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (registration, 10 a.m.) are followed by dinner. Bring a sack lunch. The public is invited to listen for free. *7:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. $12 (includes dinner and sheet music) in advance by Mar. 2 & $22 after Mar. 2. $10 performance T-shirts available. 439–8462.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $5. 822–2120.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes, and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial, Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

★**Women's Glee Club: U-M School of Music.** Julie Skadsem conducts this non-music-student ensemble in works by Hassler, Brahms, Lange, and Hill. Also, Scott Tucker directs the **Cornell Women's Choir** in works by Caplet, Orban, Betinis, Jagoda, and others. *8 p.m., Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free, but donations accepted. 764–0594.*

★**Aaron Berofsky & John Ellis: U-M School of Music.** Violinist Berofsky and pianist Ellis, both U-M music professors, perform works by Schubert, Messiaen, and Rodrigo. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Historias de Mujeres/Women's Stories": Kerrytown Concert House. Latin American folk and popular songs by **Grupo Sur,** the trio of Uruguayan singer Cristina Burgueno, guitarist-percussionist Mauricio Saleme, and string instrumentalist Oscar Ballester. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

The Silk Road Ensemble: University Musical Society. See 13 Friday. Tonight's program is highlighted by *shakuhachi* (Japanese flute) player Kojiro Umezaki and *sheng* (Chinese reed instrument) player Wu Tong's performance of their *Wandering Winds*. "The two musicians circled each other, eyes closed, with Wu Tong pacing to the funereal tempo of his legato melody while Umezaki added high, breathy accents, shaking his instrument as if he were charming an epileptic serpent," says a *Chicago Maroon* critic of a 2007 performance. The ensemble also plays Colin Jacobsen's arrangement of the ancient Persian song "Ascending Bird," Kayhan Kalhor's "Mountains Are Far Away," Zhao Jiping's "Sacred Cloud Music," Rabih Abou-Khalil's "Arabian Waltz," Dmitry Yanov-Yanovsky's *Paths of Parables*, and more. 8 p.m.

★**"Faust in the Box": U-M Residential College Deutsches Theater.** This one-woman show by the renowned German performance artist **Bridge Markland** is a fast-paced adaptation of Goethe's play that blends acting and hand-puppetry with a pop-rock score. *8 p.m., U-M Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4378.*

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Delicate Balance": P.T.D. Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Kiss of the Spider Woman": U-M MUSKET. See 13 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Jamie Lissow: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Swing Dance: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to recorded jump blues, swing, and big-band music. All welcome; no partner necessary. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by lessons ($5). *8:30–11 p.m., Kenville Studios, 323 Hoover. $5 (dance with lesson, $7). 213–0537.*

Benefit Dance Party: Heavy Manners Social Club. Dancing to music spun by DJs Chuck Sipperley and Brett Lyman. Proceeds benefit Growing Hope. *10 p.m.–2 a.m., Elks Lodge, 220 W. Sunset. $3. 272–9513.*

15 SUNDAY

★**Purim Party: Jewish Cultural Society.** Family-oriented program of arts & craft activities, games, singing, dancing, and a Purim play. Treats include pizza and hamantaschen. Children encouraged to come in costume for a parade. All invited. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free admission; nominal cost for food and games. 975–9872.*

"Afternoon Tea": TeaHaus/Cake Nouveau. A traditional English tea with scones, finger sandwiches, sweets, and tea. Also, a TeaHaus staffer gives a brief history of English tea traditions. *10 a.m. and 1 & 4 p.m., Cake Nouveau, 206 N. Fourth Ave. $26 ($50 per twosome). Reservations required. 622–0460.*

"Shamrocks and Shenanigans 5K": Running Fit/Conor O'Neill's. 4-lap 5-km race and walk that starts and finishes at Conor O'Neill's on Main Street. Also, a 1-km run and a 200-m dash for kids. Awards to male and female winners in each age division. Inside Conor O'Neill's following the race, face painting, bagpipers, Irish music and dancing, and more. Proceeds benefit Mott Children's Hospital. *11 a.m. (kids races) & 11:30 a.m. (5-km race & walk), Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $25 in advance & $30 day of race. Kids races: $12 (1-km) & $7 (dash) in advance, $16 (1-km) & $10 (dash) day of race. Preregistration available at runshamrocks.com. 929–9027.*

★**"Let's Create!": Tree Town Toys.** *Mar. 15 & 29.* Kids learn about and, using Faber-Castell supplies, try out the painting techniques of different major artists. Participants also receive a set of pastels and a drawing pad to take home. Today: **"Vincent Van Gogh."** Also this month: **"Claude Monet"** (Mar. 29). *11 a.m., Tree Town Toys, Traver Village, 2611 Plymouth Rd. Free. $10. Preregistration required. 929–6545.*

★**"Understanding Quakerism": Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse.** *Mar. 15, 22, & 29.* All invited to join discussions about Quaker history, beliefs, and practices. Preceded by a light lunch. Today's topic: **Quaker history.** Also this month: **Quaker worship** (Mar. 22) and **FAQs and Quakers Today** (Mar. 29). *12:30–2:30 p.m., 1416 Hill. Free. 475–0942.*

Gemini: The Ark. Family concert by this popular acoustic duo that has built a strong following among kids and adults throughout the Great Lakes area. Twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits offer sing-alongs, folk songs from around the world, and upbeat originals about life's simple pleasures, all performed with a boisterous sense of fun on more than a dozen instruments. The duo's latest release is the Parents Choice award-winning CD *The Orchestra Is Here to Play*, a live recording with the local Phoenix Ensemble that offers young listeners an accessible way to venture into the world of classical music while enjoying folk songs written just for kids. *1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All children and their parents or grandparents invited for an afternoon of contra and square dancing with callers John Freeman, Ed Vincent, and David Park Williams with music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by Grange-baked cookies. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $12 per family. 769–1052.*

★**"An Afternoon with Stephanie Izard": Ann Arbor District Library.** This U-M grad, the winner of last season's competition on Bravo's *Top Chef*, demonstrates her cooking and discusses her *Top Chef* experiences, culinary inspirations, and restaurant career in her native Chicago. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–455.*

★**"Transportation History Collection": Washtenaw County Historical Society.** Talk by U-M Transportation History Collection curator Kathleen Dow. *2–4 p.m., U-M Hatcher Library Special Collections (7th floor). 920 North University. Free. 662–9092.*

"The Spirit of Adventure": Ann Arbor Concert Band. James Nissen directs this local volunteer ensemble in Earle Hagen and Dick Rogers's "Harlem Nocturne," Copland's *El Salon Mexico*, H. Owen Reed's *La Fiesta Mexicana*, Klaus Badelt's Suite from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and more. *2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5; kids age 12 & under, free) at the door only. 434–7876.*

★**"Playfest 2009": U-M Theatre Department.** *Mar. 15–21.* A series of free rehearsed staged readings of plays by students of U-M theater professor Charles "OyamO" Gordon, a well-known playwright who moderates postperformance critiques. Today: Jenna Cortis's ***Why Girls and Boys Can Never Be Friends*** (2 p.m.), a comedy about a male on his high school dance team desperate to date a female football star that includes visits from both God and Eminem, and Julie Wallace's ***Real Perfect*** (7 p.m.), a drama about a young girl whose ideals are severely tested when she begins her life in a big city. *2 & 7 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Studio One, 1226 Murfin. Free. 764–5350.*

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

"Kiss of the Spider Woman": U-M MUSKET. See 13 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**4th Annual Ensemble Concert: Ypsilanti Community Band.** Jerry Robbins directs small ensembles drawn from this 70-member volunteer band in a program TBA. *3 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. lobby, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 905–5453.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 1 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**"Child's Play XVII: Mother Goose": Friends of Chamber Music in Pease.** EMU music faculty pianists Anne Beth Gajda and Garik Pedersen present their popular annual concert for families with young children. Program TBA. *4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Hands Across the Border": First Presbyterian Church.** Pianists **Karlos Moser,** a retired University of Wisconsin opera program director, and his wife, **Melinda Moser,** perform their 4-hand piano arrangements of works about lands foreign to their composers, including works by Faure, Stravinsky, Respighi, Schumann, Ravel, Barber, and Brahms. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"Chocolate: Food of the Gods": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor.** Talk by Sweet Gem Confections owner **Nancy Biehn.** *4–6 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 662–8661.*

"From the Renaissance to the Baroque": Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. Warren Puffer Jones conducts this polished semiprofessional local ensemble in works by Palestrina, Monteverdi, and others. *7 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 420 W. Liberty. $10 (students, $8; kids age 18 & under, free) in advance & $12 (students, $10) at the door. 996–8867.*

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★**"The World of Chekhov": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** RC students present a collage of scenes from Chekhov's plays. *7 p.m., U-M Residential College Auditorium, East Quad off Willard between Church and East University. Free. 647–4354.*

"The Irish Influence: New Songs and Old Favorites": Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Irish fiddle tunes, Celtic-tinged originals, and St. Patrick's Day favorites by the local trio of singer-mandolinist **Bill O'Connor,** singer-songwriter-pianist **Laura Massaro,** and fiddler **Paul Winder.** *7:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10 (members, $9). 769–1052.*

★**Hie-Yon Choi: U-M School of Music.** This Seoul National University piano professor plays works by Liszt, Bach, Reger, and Dutilleux. *8 p.m., Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

16 MONDAY

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Mon. beginning Mar. 16.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Playgroups are also offered (beginning the week of Mar. 16) at the Malletts Creek (Tues., 10–11 a.m., & Thurs., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Tues., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), and Traverwood (Fri., 10:30–11:30 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to join Lucia Skoman to discuss a book TBA at a2gov.org/senior. *12:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Almost Architecture": U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning.** University of Pennsylvania architecture professor Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss discusses his book about post-Communist architecture and its relationship to politics. *12:30 p.m., 2108 Art & Architecture, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–1300.*

★**U-M International Institute Science, Technology, & Society Program.** *Mar. 16 & 30.* Today: U-M anthropology professor Stuart Kirsch discusses **"The Science of Capital."** Also this month: University of Delaware history professor David Suisman discusses **"Music without Musicians: How Machines Became Central to 20th-Century Musical Culture."** *4–5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch, 435 S. State. Free. 647–3766.*

★**Embroiderers Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *7 p.m., United Way, 2305 Platt. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 975–4348.*

★**Nonfiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of William Paul Young's best-selling theological allegory ***The Shack.*** Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Playfest 2009": U-M Theatre Department.** See 15 Sunday. Tonight: Max Kaufman's ***In the Year of the Babe,*** a drama about 3 siblings who battle for power in a world where social status declines with age. 7 p.m.

★**Thomas Nuzum: Ann Arbor Women Artists.** Talk by this Flint acrylic painter. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 483–1897.*

★**"Spring Flora of the Midwestern United States": Wild Ones/Michigan Botanical Club.** Slide-illustrated talk by Michigan Natural Features Inventory ecologist Brad Slaughter. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by refreshments and socializing. *7:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 662–9997.*

★**Salt Lines: U-M Spectrum Center.** Slam poetry by this 4–woman troupe that includes 2008 Women of the World Poetry Slam champion **Andrea Gibson,** 1994 Individual National Poetry Slam Champion **Sonya Renee,** Seattle poet **Denise Jolly,** and Bent Writing Institute founder **Tara Hardy.** *8–10 p.m., Michigan League Michigan Room. Free. 763–4186.*

17 TUESDAY

★**Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Tues. beginning Mar. 17.* Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered beginning the week of Mar. 16) at the Malletts Creek (Wed., 10–10:30 a.m.), Traverwood (Wed., 6–6:30 p.m., and Thurs., 10–10:30 & 11–11:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs., 7–7:30 p.m., and Fri., 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★**Maria Elena Diaz: U-M Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.** This UC-Santa Cruz history professor gives a talk based on research for her next book, ***The Meaning of Slavery and Freedom in Cuba and Spain During the Age of Revolution.*** *4:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 647–0844.*

★**"In the Family": Ann Arbor District Library.** Chicago filmmaker **Joanna Rudnick** introduces a screening of her 2008 PBS *P.O.V.* documentary about her decision, given a family history of breast and ovarian cancer, to take advantage of breakthroughs in genetic research to prepare herself for her own future. Followed by a panel discussion with Rudnick and U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center representatives. *6:30–9 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

"Flavors of Ireland": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a meal with a menu showcasing the influence of traditional Irish cookery on American cuisine. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** InsideOut Literary Arts Project (Detroit) founder **Terry Blackhawk,** a Detroit poet known for her brightly figured poems on a variety of themes, reads from her new collection *The Dropped Hand* and from the women's poetry anthology *When She Named Fire.* Followed by an open mike for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★**"Playfest 2009": U-M Theatre Department.** See 15 Sunday. Tonight: Joey Richter's ***Godshack,*** a drama about 2 con men who discover they have bitten off more than they bargained for when they start a fast-food chain that panders to Christianity. 7 p.m.

★**"Local Treasures: The Best of Washtenaw County Parks and Preserves": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Talk by Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission naturalist Faye Stoner. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–7600.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler directs this music-student orchestra in a performance of Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major featuring **Uni Choi,** a U-M piano student who won the 2009 U-M Concerto Competition. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a lecture about the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

18 WEDNESDAY

"Pirates of Penzance": Ann Arbor City Club Renaissance Lecture Series. The U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society presents selections from Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta about the romance between a young lady and a pirate. Lunch. *11:30 a.m., 1830 Washtenaw. $17.50 (includes lunch). Reservations required 24 hours in advance. 662–3279.*

★**"What Is Ukrainian about Ukraine's Pop Culture? The Strange Case of Verka Serduchka": U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies.** Talk by University of Victoria (British Columbia) German and Slavic studies professor Serhy Yekelchyk. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"Curse of the Black Gold": U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library.** Award-winning photographer **Ed Kashi** leads a tour of the current exhibit of his photos of Nigeria (see Galleries list). *4 p.m., Hatcher Graduate Library, room 100. Free. 615–3194.*

★**"Depression Glass and Other Glassware": Saline Area Historical Society.** Talk by Saline glassware collector Carol Christiaens. Attendees are invited to bring Depression-era glassware for show & tell. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Saline Senior Center, 7190 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Free. 944–0442.*

★**"Taxi to the Dark Side": Michigan Peaceworks.** Screening of Alex Gibney's Oscar-winning 2007 documentary about the controversy surrounding an Afghan taxi driver beaten to death by American soldiers. *7 p.m., U-M location TBA. Free. 761–5922.*

★**"The King's Grace": Nicola's Books.** Historical novelist **Anne Easter Smith** reads from and/or discusses her new novel about Grace Plantagenet, Edward IV's illegitimate daughter, who, in Smith's story, tries to discover the true identity of a man claiming to be one of the presumed dead young princes whom Richard III had locked in the Tower. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** See 4 Wednesday. Tonight: fiction by U-M American culture lecturer **Randa Jarrar,** author of the novel *A Map of Home,* and poetry by U-M English professor **Khaled Mattawa,**

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *Technology Configured: Works by Edward Johnson, Frank Pahl, and Patrick Ryan Trimbath* (through Mar. 29). 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library. *Downtown Branch,* 343 S. Fifth Ave.: *Ann Arbor Women Artists Spring Exhibition* (Mar. 3–Apr. 21). ***Malletts Creek Branch,*** 3090 E. Eisenhower: *The Zayde Paintings by Fay Kleinman* (Mar. 18–Apr. 29). 327–4510.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall & Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Art Department Honors Exhibition* (Mar. 23–Apr. 3). Reception 24 Tues., 4–7 p.m. 487–1268.

EMU Student Center Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Real Beginnings: Artwork about the First-Year Experience at EMU* (Mar. 9–13). 528–3993.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Michigan Comics Show* (Mar. 31–June 5). See 31 Tues. Events listing. Reception 31 Tues., 5–7 p.m. 487–0465.

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. *Iron Sculpture by Kyle Connelly* (Mar. 1–Apr. 4). 665–6158.

Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave. *Obsession: Labor-Intensive Works in Various Media by Various Artists* (Mar. 4–Apr. 12). Reception 6 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 997–7012.

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery, 2935 Birch Hollow. *The Art and Soul of Peace through Humor: Paintings by Maureen Kushner* (Mar. 1–May 31). 971–0990.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *Abstract Photographs by William Pelletier and Robin Vincent* (Mar. 1–31). 769–2999.

3050 Packard Rd., south side of Packard, just east of Platt, between the 2 shopping centers. *Sculpture by Edith Ekros and Howard Haarer* (Mar. 28 & 29). Reception 28 Sat., 6:30–9 p.m. 996–8570.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *Fifth Annual Riverside Docent Exhibition* (Mar. 5–28). Reception 7 Sat., 5–7 p.m. 480–2787.

Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery, 325 Braun. *Femmes: Front and Center—Photography by Kris Kurzawa* (Mar. 7–31). Reception 7 Sat., 6:30 p.m. 663–0036.

U-M Clements Library, 909 South University. *500 Years of American Grapes and Wine: A Remarkable Journey* (through May 29). 764–2347.

U-M Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel. *Thirteenth Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners* (Mar. 24–Apr. 8). See 25 Wed. Events listing. Reception 24 Tues., 5:30–8 p.m. 763–3266.

U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery, room 100. *Curse of the Black Gold: Photographs by Ed Kashi* (Mar. 18–Apr. 5). See 18 Wed. Events listing. 615–3194.

U-M Institute for the Humanities, 202 S. Thayer. *Speech Acts (from Democracy in America: the National Campaign)* (through May 15). 936–3518.

U-M Map Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, 8th floor. *Art and Maps* (Mar. 19). 647–0646.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. *Art in Nature/Nature in Art: Sculpture by Dianne Austin and Photography by Leslie Ford* (Mar. 10–Apr. 13). 647–7600.

U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State. *Museums in the 21st Century: Concepts, Projects, Buildings* (Mar. 28–May 3); *Expressions of Vienna: Master Drawings by Klimt and Schiele* (Mar. 28–May 31); *UMMA Projects: Photograms & Sculptures by Walead Beshty* (Mar. 28–June 14). See 28 Sat. Events listing. 763–UMMA.

U-M Residential College/East Quad Art Gallery, 701 East University. *SILENCE: Reading the Heavens—Large-Scale Installations by Jim Cogswell* (Mar. 6–Apr. 10). Reception 6 Fri., 5–7 p.m. 763–0176.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design), 2000 Bonisteel. *The Design Show* (Mar. 13–Apr. 3). Reception 13 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 763–4417.

U-M Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art & Design), Art & Architecture Bldg., 2000 Bonisteel. *Relish the Lick: Works by Lindsay Stern* (Mar. 13–Apr. 3). Reception 13 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 764–0397.

U-M Work (U-M School of Art & Design), 306 S. State. *The Five Senses* (Mar. 13–Apr. 3). Reception 13 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 998–6178.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2008–2009 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

author of the recent *Amorisco* and 2 other collections. 7–9:30 p.m.

★**"Playfest 2009": U-M Theatre Department.** See 15 Sunday. Tonight: Erica Ranade's ***The Boy Who Couldn't Smile,*** a musical about a boy congenitally unable to feel happiness who becomes the subject of psychological scrutiny. 7 p.m.

★**"Michigan Folklore": Pittsfield Union Grange.** Talk by MSU Museum folk arts curator Yvonne Lockwood. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass; table service provided). *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free. 769–1052.*

★**"Hot Places: A Michigan Story of the Exploration of Mercury": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Talk by U-M oceanic, atmospheric, and space sciences professor Thomas Zurbuchen. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★**"Michael Gay's Photo-Journal: Outdoors and AroundAnnArbor.com": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Talk by local amateur photographer Gay. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275.*

Altenberg Trio Vienna: University Musical Society. Named for the revered 19th-century Viennese poet Peter Altenberg, this trio of award-winning musicians takes pride in its love of beauty, precise style, and Viennese roots. Program: Toru Takemitsu's impressionistic *Between Tides,* Haydn's Piano Trio in C Major, and Dvorak's Piano Trio in F Minor. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $18–$36 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. Today's 3 p.m. show is sold out. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Chili's Comedy Dojo": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Fast-paced show featuring stand-up comedy by 15 recent graduates of veteran comic and *Tonight Show* writer Chili Challis's Comedy Dojo. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

19 THURSDAY

★**"Debussy's Children's Corner": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.** U-M piano professor Christopher Harding discusses his experience editing a 2009 edition of Debussy's *Children's Corner. 10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–5346.*

★**Jan Malaikal: Daughters of the American Revolution.** Talk by this lieutenant colonel, the U-M Army Education Program chair. Also, distribution of the DAR ROTC medal to U-M ROTC students. *1 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 975–1976.*

★**"Crafts Program": International Neighbors.** *See My Town, p. 18,* Members of the club's quilting and knitting groups display their current projects. Also, all invited to bring something they've made. International Neighbors is a 49-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 663–3989.*

"Making Stories Come Alive!": Eastern Washtenaw Multicultural Academy/U-M Jumpstart. Family-oriented storytelling event featuring classic children's books and craft activities inspired by them. *4–6 p.m., EWMA, 5550 Platt (between Morgan & Textile). 677–0732.*

★**"There Is Food in Egypt! It Is Floating down the River! Notes on Judeo-Spanish Belles-Lettres and the Medieval 'Coplas de Yosef'": U-M Romance Languages & Literatures.** Talk by Harvard University Romance languages & literatures professor Luis Giron-Negron. *4–6 p.m., MLB Commons, 812 E. Washington. Free. 764–5344.*

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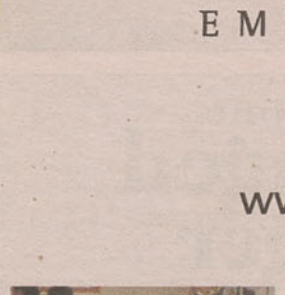
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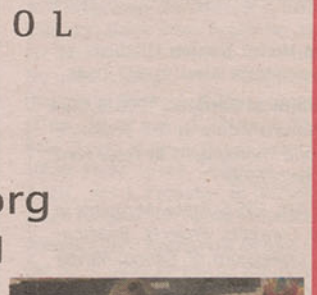




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★**"Performing Body": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by **Marina Abramovic,** a Serbian performance artist best known for works that push her body to extremes, including a 1974 piece in which she allowed audience members to use various objects—scissors, a knife, a whip, a gun with a single bullet—on her as she sat impassively. More recent performances include Vito Acconci's *Seedbed,* a work that involved masturbating in front of an audience at the Guggenheim Museum, and her 2002 *The House with the Ocean View,* a work in which she didn't eat for 12 days. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★**David Mason: U-M Modern Greek Program.** This Colorado College English professor reads from ***Ludlow,*** his verse novel about the Ludlow coal field massacre of 1914, in which 18 immigrant men, women, and children of striking coal mining families were killed by the Colorado National Guard. *5 p.m., U-M Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 936–6099.*

★**Peaceful Dragon School.** Local tai chi master Wasentha Young offers introductions to **"Energy Work"** (Mar. 19) and **"Tai Chi"** (Mar. 26). *5:30 p.m., Peaceful Dragon School, 1945 Pauline, Suite B. Free. 741–0695.*

"Legacy of Trust": Washtenaw Land Trust Gala Fund-Raiser. Dinner, a silent auction, and a talk by Land Trust Alliance (Washington, D.C.) president Rand Wentworth. *6 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $100. Reservations required by Mar. 5. 302–5263.*

"Raw Foods": Living Yoga. Lecture-demo by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston, who hosts a **raw food potluck** on Mar. 22 (1–3 p.m., location TBA at 995–0875). *6:30–8 p.m., Arbor Farms Market, 2103 W. Stadium. $10 (kids, $5). Preregistration required. 998–8111.*

★**"On the Line": Ann Arbor District Library.** Screening of Brian DeRouen's award-winning 2008 documentary about national security and civil liberties. Followed by a discussion led by U-M Community Scholars Program faculty and students. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

★**"Allergies & Asthma Arrested": The Nutritional Healing Center.** Talk by local chiropractor Shannon Roznay. *7 p.m., Plum Market lounge, Maple Village shopping center. Free. Preregistration requested. 827–5000.*

★**"Things You Should Know about Parkinson's Disease": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M neurology and neurosurgery professor Kelvin Chou. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Reconciliation in the Sacred Texts: An Evening of Scriptural Reasoning": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** Temple Beth Emeth rabbi **Robert Levy,** Islamic House of Wisdom founder **Mohammed Ali Elahi,** and St. Clare's Episcopal Church pastor **James Rhodenhiser** interpret relevant scriptural passages from their different religious traditions. Followed by small-group discussions. Refreshments. *7 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard at Eastover. Free. 663–1870.*

★**"Last Lecture": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Salon.** EMU philosophy professor **Kate Mehuron** gives a talk inspired by Randy Pausch's best-selling *The Last Lecture. 7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Seeing in the Dark: How Amateur Astronomers Are Discovering the Wonders of the Universe": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to join a discussion of the 2009 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads book (see 2 Monday). *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3334 Traver at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**2009 Ann Arbor Youth Poetry Slam Semifinals: Neutral Zone.** Readings by young poets battling for a spot at the Ann Arbor Youth Poetry Slam finals in April. Other semifinals are held at 7 p.m. at Community (Mar. 20) and Pioneer (Mar. 26) high schools. *7 p.m., Huron High School media center, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 214–9995.*

★**Donald Ray Pollock: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Ohio State grad student reads from his acclaimed debut ***Knockemstiff,*** a collection of linked stories, spanning a period from the late 60s to the mid-90s, exploring the sad, stunted, but resilient lives of the residents of a tough southern Ohio hamlet. "Pollock doesn't so much push the envelope as incinerate it," says the *Washington Post,* "but his potent narrative gifts (and pitch-black humor) make it impossible to look away from the flames." Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Playfest 2009": U-M Theatre Department.** See 15 Sunday. Tonight: Seth Moore's ***Touch (Obscura),*** a drama about a paranoid artist living alone whose life is changed by the arrival of a soldier with a back covered in shrapnel scars. 7 p.m.

★**"Hunting Ancient Hunters Beneath Lake Huron": Michigan Archaeological Society.** Talk by U-M anthropology professor **John O'Shea.** *7:30 p.m., U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 434 S. State. Free. (248) 437–4183.*

★**The Airmen of Note: Huron High School.** This U.S. Air Force jazz ensemble was founded in 1950 to carry on the style of Glenn Miller's Army Air Corps dance band, and it played Miller's orchestra in *The Glenn Miller Story. 7:30 p.m., Huron High School Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free but tickets required by mailing requests to Airmen of Note Jazz Concert, P.O. Box 970896, Ypsilanti 48197. 997–1900.*

"Albert Herring": U-M Opera Theatre Department. *Mar. 19–22.* Robert Swedberg, a former director of the Orlando and Syracuse operas, directs U-M opera students in Benjamin Britten's lighthearted opera about a backward mama's boy chosen as King of the May when the self-proclaimed moral guardians of Loxford, England, fail to find a single female virgin to serve as May Queen. But good Albert gets drunk during the May Day celebration, goes on a wild tear, and becomes a local hero. Britten's beguiling music heightens the comedy by parodying the characters. *7:30 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 & $24 (students, $9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"Twelfth Night": Blackbird Theatre Academy. *Mar. 19–22 & 26–29.* Barton Bund directs local middle and high school students in Shakespeare's comedy of misplaced affections and mistaken identities. Viola, a noblewoman shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria, disguises herself as a man and finds work as a servant to Duke Orsino, with whom she promptly falls in love. But when the duke sends his new servant to court a young widow on his behalf, the widow becomes enamored of Viola. After several additional gender-bending plot twists, most everyone is happily coupled in delightful and surprising arrangements. *8 p.m., Blackbird Theatre, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). Tickets $20 (seniors, $15; students, $10) in advance at blackbirdtheatre.org and at the door. 332–3848.*

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Danny Bevins: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Mar. 19–21.* Stand-up comic known for his self-deprecating, often goofily cerebral stories about his struggles with the absurdities of everyday life. "I want the audience to leave the show physically and emotionally exhausted," Bevins says. "I want them to feel like they've just been in a fight for their soul." Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

20 FRIDAY

★**"Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature": U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning.** Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) chair **Douglas Farr** discusses his book about the movement to integrate big buildings and walkable, diverse spaces. He signs copies of the book at Liberty Borders on Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m. *Noon, 2104 Art & Architecture, North Campus. Free. 936–0206.*

★**Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists.** See 6 Friday. Today: U-M grad student organists **Christopher Reynolds, Christopher Urbiel,** and **Andrew Meagher** play the Pachelbel partita "Herzlich tut mich verlangen" and works by Bach and Franck. Noon.

U-M Baseball vs. Indiana/Purdue–Fort Wayne. *Mar. 20–22.* Big Ten opener. The March schedule also includes home games against **EMU** (Mar. 25, 3 p.m.) and **Bowling Green** (Mar. 31, 3 p.m.). *3 p.m. (Mar. 20) & 1 p.m. (Mar. 21 & 22), Ray Fisher Stadium. $5 (youths age 12 & under, $3; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

Builders Home and Improvement Show: Home Builders Association of Washtenaw County. *Mar. 20–22.* Nearly 200 area exhibitors show and demonstrate products and offer information on services for the home. Exhibitors offer info on services such as roofing, landscaping, flooring, and chiropractic. Concessions. *3–9 p.m. (Mar. 20), 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (Mar. 21), & 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Mar. 22), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $5 (kids age 12 & under, free). 996–0100.*

Live Book Auction: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. Past Presents auctioneers offer an array of rare and collectible books listed at ffaadl.org. Preceded by a client auction, 4–5:30 p.m. Registration and preview at 3:30 p.m. *6–7 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. $10 entry fee. 302–7774.*

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Parents can drop off their kids ages 2–10 for dinner, games and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $30 (members, $25). Preregistration required. 661–8012.*

Red Barn Family English Dance: Christ the King Church. Arlene Kindel and Bronwen Gates lead family-friendly dances for age 7 & older with music by Martha Stokely, Betsy Foote, and Susie Lorand. Also, activities for toddlers. All dances taught. No partner or experience necessary. Dress comfortably, and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., the red barn at Domino's Farms, Via Sacra Dr. (off Ave Maria Dr. from Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). $7 (families, $14; students, $4). 665–7704.*

★**"Bringing 'Peaces' of Iraq Together": Michigan Peaceworks.** All invited to play chess and hear about the game's Iraqi roots. Also, a presentation on Iraqi history and a display of artwork about peace by local youths. Snacks and pomegranate juice. *7–10 p.m., Cafe Ambrosia basement, 326 Maynard St. Free. 761–5922.*

★**Keith Taylor: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This veteran local poet, the U-M undergrad creative writing coordinator, reads from ***If the World Becomes So Bright,*** his new collection of intimate, plainspoken poems contemplating a variety of landscapes from Michigan to Cape Hatteras and the Irish countryside and the lives they sustain. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"Melody on Ice 2009": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. *Mar. 20 & 21.* This annual show features more than 200 talented area skaters from tots to seniors. Also, ice dancers and synchronized skating teams. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Tickets $9 in advance and at the door. 213–6768.*

"Angels in America: Millennium Approaches": EMU Theater Department. *Mar. 20–22, 28, & 29 and Apr. 2.* EMU drama professor Pirooz Aghssa directs EMU drama students in the "Millennium Approaches" segment of the Pulitzer Prize–winning Tony Kushner 2–play series that can fairly be said to have redefined modern American theater. (A production of the 2nd segment, "Perestroika," opens March 26; see listing.) Subtitled "a gay fantasia on national themes," Angels in America is an ambitious, sprawling, fantastic spectacle examining Reagan-era politics, religion, the AIDS plague, and the timeless questions of love, courage, and death. The drama centers around one HIV-positive man, his friends and loved ones, and the various presences who haunt him, including angelic messengers and the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg. *7 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12; kids age 12 & under, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

★**"Playfest 2009": U-M Theatre Department.** See 15 Sunday. Tonight: Rebecca Poulson's ***All the Windows on Alcatraz,*** a drama about fear, chronic illness, failed love, the pressure of social expectation, and creative stagnation. 7 p.m.

★**"Jews, Arabs, and Government Officials: Power Relations Inside Israel": InterDenominational Advocates for Peace/Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Palestine-Israel Action Group.** Talk by Israeli anthropologist David Wesley. *7:15 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 665–6158.*

★**"Shortline Railroads & Railroad Images": Ann Arbor Train & Trolley Watchers.** Talks by club members Kerry Conroy and Steve Sobel. *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church social hall, 306 N. Division ("just up the hill from the Amtrak station"). Free. 996–8345, 971–8329.*

★**"Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

Andrew Kratzat Singers: Canterbury House. Award-winning local bassist Kratzat leads his ensemble in his own compositions, as well as works by Sam Cooke, Bela Fleck, and Abigail Washburn. Members include violinist-mandolinist Brad Phillips, guitarist Tomek Miernowski, and singer-banjoist-dobro player Laurel Premo. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students, $5). 764–3162.*

"Chicago": Saline Area Players. *Mar. 21–22.* Wendy Sielaff directs local actors in John Kander, Fred Ebb, and Bob Fosse's long-running 1975 vaudeville-style musical, a satire of the cult of celebrity set in the Roaring 20s. After washed-up chorine Roxie Hart offs her squeeze and wangles her husband into taking the rap, he reneges and tosses Roxie in jail, where

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she meets fellow vaudevillian and prison prima donna Velma. Roxie draws the attention of Velma's hotshot lawyer, who puffs up Roxie's crime into tabloid fame, angering Velma. A sensational trial ensues. Songs include such favorites as "All That Jazz," "Razzle Dazzle," and "Cell Block Tango." *8 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Tickets $15 in advance at salineareaplayers.com and Maureen's Designs (101 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline) & $18 at the door. 994–4940.*

"Twelfth Night": Blackbird Theatre Academy. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Albert Herring": U-M Opera Theatre Department. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Danny Bevins: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

21 SATURDAY

★**Regional Competition: National Science Olympiad.** All invited to watch local middle and high school students compete individually and as teams in different tasks that test contestants' knowledge of physics, biology, earth science, chemistry, meteorology, and technology. Followed by an awards ceremony at 3 p.m. The top 2 winners of this regional event go to state-level competition in this Michigan-based national science contest. *8:30 a.m.–2 p.m., various WCC campus sites, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 477–8508.*

"Getting a Jump on Spring: Seed Starting": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Talk by Matthaei staff. Also, kids invited to plant seeds to take home and for the Gaffield Children's Garden. *9–11:30 a.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $5. 647–7600.*

"The Quiltmaker's Art: Alive and Flourishing": Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild. Talk by nationally known Milford quilter **Judi Blaydon.** *9 a.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (members, free). Wheelchair-accessible. 953–9650.*

★**"Now Is Your Time": AGLOW International.** Talk by AGLOW vice-president **Delynne Ledbetter.** AGLOW is a network of Christian women who meet for prayer and community outreach. Women of all faiths invited. Light refreshments. *9:30 a.m.–noon, WCC Liberal Arts Bldg., room 340, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 971–4545.*

★**"Bunny Arrival": Briarwood Mall.** *Mar. 21, 22, & 28, and Apr. 11 & 14.* A chance to visit the Easter Bunny and pet goats, chicks, regular bunnies, and other baby farm animals. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Briarwood center court. Free. 769–9610.*

★**"Great Lakes Orchid Judging": American Orchid Society.** All invited to view flowering orchids. Awards are given to growers of new and superior orchids and orchid hybrids. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–7600.*

★**Heirloom Seed Swap: Project Grow.** All invited to bring heirloom vegetable seeds to swap or to purchase seeds from Project Grow. *10 a.m.–noon, Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free admission. 996–3169.*

35th Annual Pioneer Craft Fair: Dexter Area Historical Society. More than 50 juried artists and craftspeople demonstrate and sell a wide range of traditional folk art and modern adaptations at this popular juried fair. Also, demonstrations of pioneer crafts. Storytelling and a craft table for kids. Entertainment TBA. Bake sale. Lunch available, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Dexter United Methodist Church Atrium, 7643 Huron River Dr. Dexter. $3 (children grades 1–12, 50¢; children age 5 & under, free). 426–8846.*

★**Nature's Expressions.** *Mar. 21 & 22.* Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. Includes a complete fossil skeleton of a 9-foot, 100,000-year-old cave bear. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free. 994–3048.*

★**"Brick Bash 2009!": Bricks for Brains.** This public Lego-building party for all ages includes several tables stocked with Lego sets, Duplos, and Bionicles. Also, Lego hobbyists from throughout the region display their creations, including everything from robotics and other mechanized creations to models of cars and trucks. Sale of Lego items. Lego door prizes. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., Courthouse Square Apartments ballroom, 100 S. Fourth Ave. at Huron. Free. 637–9429.*

Opus Mime: Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Local mime Michael Lee leads his troupe in **"Stories Beyond Words,"** an all-ages show blending stories and silliness. Milk & cookies. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★**"Swordplay Extravaganza": Ring of Steel.** Michigan Opera Theatre fight director **Chris Barbeau** presents a series of swordplay stunts with broadsword, rapier, and other weapons. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., U-M Student Theatre Arts Complex, 1201 Kipke Dr. (behind Crisler Arena). Free. 320–1147.*

★**"God and My Car: Things That I Learned about Christianity While Driving My Car": Borders Express.** Synagogue Baptist Church (Detroit) pastor **Jake Gaines** is on hand to sign copies of his new book. *Noon–2 p.m., Borders, Briarwood. Free. 669–0785.*

"Amazing Adaptations": Leslie Science and Nature Center. Leslie Science and Nature Center staff members present a family-oriented program exploring the ways animals have adapted to their environment. *1–3 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. $8 (family, $30). 997–1075.*

★**"Spring Equinox Ritual": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate this ancient Celtic Druidic festival honoring nature spirits, with a local emphasis on Ana, goddess of the Huron River. Bring gardening tools and seeds you would like blessed. Raffle and potluck (bring a dish). Preceded by a fire watch beginning Friday (7 p.m., 263 Larkspur). *2–5 p.m., Friends Meeting House, 1420 Hill. Free. 262–1052.*

★**"Gamelan Instruments and Ensembles Throughout History": U-M School of Music Stearns Lecture.** Javanese musician **Sumarsam,** a Wesleyan University music professor, gives a slide- and video-illustrated talk about the Indonesian musical ensembles that typically feature metallophones, xylophones, drums, gongs, and bamboo flutes. *2:30 p.m., Burton Memorial Tower. Free. 764–0594.*

"Irish Ceili": Clonlara School. A traditional Irish dinner and live music TBA. Cash bar. *5–9 p.m., Clonlara, 1289 Jewett. $15 (kids ages 7–18, $10). Reservations required. 769–4511.*

"Zenefit Auction": Zen Buddhist Temple. Live and silent auctions of a wide range of donated goods and services. Also, hard-driving traditional bluegrass by **Lonesome County,** a Michigan quintet, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. Refreshments. Proceeds benefit the temple's children's programming, Food Gatherers, and Religious Action on Affordable Housing. *6–8:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. $5 suggested donation. 761–6520.*

"6th Annual Chili Cook-Off & Comedy Show": St. Luke Lutheran Church. A chili dinner followed at 7:30 p.m. by a Christian comedy show. This year's headliner is **John Branyan,** an Indiana comic who has been compared to Bill Cosby. Proceeds benefit Hope Clinic and In His Service, a local youth community service project. *6:30 p.m., St. Luke, 4205 Washtenaw. Tickets $25 (comedy show only, $10) in advance only. 971–0550.*

★**"Playfest 2009": U-M Theatre Department.** See 15 Sunday. Tonight: Savannah Hagen's ***Great Inexpectations*** (2 p.m.), a drama about a middle-aged man with a mundane life who discovers he has only a few weeks to live, and Goli Rahimi's ***Earwig*** (7 p.m.), a dark comedy about the connected stories of 3 people driven by an inordinate lust for revenge. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Melody on Ice 2009": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. See 20 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Spoon River Anthology": St. Andrew's Players. Nancy Heusel directs a staged reading of 9 actors and 4 musicians in Charles Aidman's adaptation of Edgar Lee Masters's 1915 collection of poetic epitaphs of the fictional citizens of a small midwestern town that take the form of postmortem monologues. *7 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Donation. 663–0518.*

"Angels in America: Millennium Approaches": EMU Theater Department. See 20 Friday. 7 p.m.

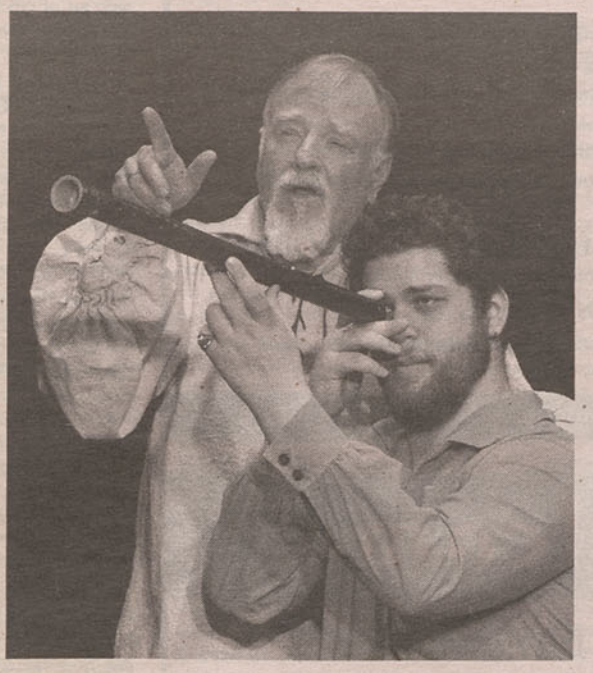
★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *Mar. 21 & 28.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. Participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes as well. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *7:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

International Folk Dancing. Dancing to live music by Katun. The program begins with a dance lesson. *8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $3–$5 (students, $1–$3) donation. 995–0011, 709–8748.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to music by the Pittsfield Open Band. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Lesson at 7:45 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 426–0241.*

The Life of Galileo

Science and truth



Bertolt Brecht wrote *The Life of Galileo* between 1937 and 1939 as a response to Nazi censorship and manipulation of the work of scientists and artists. Among numerous other examples, the Nazis dismissed Einstein's brilliant theories as "Jewish science" and jailed and persecuted many artists, Jewish and not. Brecht, like Einstein, fled Germany before the war and was already in exile when *Galileo* was first produced. He rewrote the play in the 1940s, in collaboration with the well-known actor Charles Laughton, when he was living in America, and that version received its premiere in this country in 1947. Though about Galileo's famous struggles with the Catholic Church 400 years ago, the play remains as timely as today's blogs—witness the ongoing controversies about stem cell research and about evolution.

The U-M Residential College production of *The Life of Galileo* Thursday through Sunday, March 26–29, is part of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts theme semester "The Universe: Yours to Discover," which commemorates the 400th anniversary of Galileo's discoveries. RC drama lecturers Kate Mendeloff and Martin Walsh, of Shakespeare in the Arb fame, direct the play and act the title role respectively, leading a student cast. Though it's not a musical, there is music in *Galileo*, as in many other Brecht plays. Mendeloff commissioned new music for this production, and composer Dennis Davenport's settings of the couplets, *Knittelvers*, with which Brecht introduces the action of each scene, are in the style of early-seventeenth-century madrigals, but with a decidedly modern harmonic palette.

We all think we know Galileo—the possibly apocryphal cannonballs-from-the-Leaning-Tower-of-Pisa story, how he invented the telescope (though he didn't), and his troubles with the Inquisition—but Brecht focuses closer to home, on Galileo's enormous excitement in making scientific discoveries, especially in the first scene when, using only a chair and an apple, he demonstrates the Copernican system to his housekeeper's young son, and later, when he courageously tries to show his discoveries to Cosimo de' Medici and his men, only to have them refuse to look through the telescope. But Brecht also shows us a man who behaves thoughtlessly with his family and household, who has an insatiable appetite and a very human fear of physical pain that forces him to recant before the Inquisition rather than defend what he knows to be true.

And Brecht went farther. After Hiroshima, he altered the end of the play to make a powerful statement about the responsibility of scientists for more than merely scientific truth. It is no small irony that only months after *Galileo* was first produced in the United States, Brecht himself was brought up in front of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, our uniquely American version of the Inquisition, albeit arguably far more civilized, if no less ideologically blinded. He left the United States, returning to Europe the following day.

—Sandor Slomovits

"Looking for Love": Amaizin' Blue Annual Spring Concert. The oldest U-M coed a cappella ensemble performs pop songs TBA. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $10 (students, $7) available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

Venice Gas House Trolley: Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz and folk with Beat-style poetry by this Madison ensemble. "The band is on a mission to bridge the gap between poetry and music," says one review. "Some hip jive cat daddy." *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Midsummer in March": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Arie Lipsky directs the orchestra in performances of Mendelssohn's *Reformation Symphony* and selections from his incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*—including the "Wedding March"—to celebrate Mendelssohn's 200th birthday. Also, Bach's rapid and intricate Piano Concerto in D Minor, with nationally renowned Canadian-born Ann Arbor–based pianist **Joel Hastings,** and the suite from William Walton's *The Wise Virgins. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10–$47 in advance at the A2SO office (220 E. Huron) and a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

25th Anniversary Gala: U-M Musical Theatre Department. Performances by U-M musical theatre grads and current students, accompanied by the U-M Symphony Band. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $16 & $25 (students, $9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"Chicago": Saline Area Players. See 20 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Albert Herring": U-M Opera Theatre Department. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": Blackbird Theatre Academy. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Danny Bevins: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Girls Night \aut\ with Tracy Mack": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Performances by local blues-rock and folk-rock singer-songwriter Mack and Detroit Americana, alt-country, indie-rock band **The Blueflowers.** *9 p.m.–midnight, Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $5 cover. 663–0036.*

22 SUNDAY

★**"Bread Baking: Natural Leavening Breads": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market.** Lecture-demo by Whole Foods staff. Also this month, Whole Foods staff present free programs on **"Whole Grain Cooking: Quinoa"** (Mar. 25, 5:30 p.m.), **"Soups for Springtime"** (Mar. 26, 6 p.m.), and **"Whole Trade Guarantee Coffee"** (Mar. 27, 6 p.m.). *11 a.m., Whole Foods Lifestyle Center, Cranbrook Village shopping center, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. Free. 997–7507.*

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★**Jewish Hikers of Michigan.** All invited to join a 1½-to–2-hour hike through the park. Bring a backpack, munchies, and drinks. *1 p.m., County Farm Park, Platt Rd. lot. Free. 883–9522.*

★**"Amigurumi Crochet Happy Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Hands-on introduction to the Japanese art of crocheting small stuffed toys. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Genealogy Resources at the Bentley Historical Library": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by U-M Bentley Historical Library reference archivist Karen Jania. Followed by **"Using Forms & Software,"** a talk by club members Nancy Krohn and Bobbi Snow. *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

★**"Early Spring along the River Raisin": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through the wetlands. Wear boots. *2–4 p.m., Ervin-Stucki Preserve, park near the fence on the south side of Austin Rd.(west off Michigan Ave. south of Saline) at Neal Rd., Manchester. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**"The Many Faces of Depression: Hiding in Plain Sight": Jewish Family Services.** All invited to join a public discussion. *2–4:45 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 769–0209.*

★**"Finding Home": First Church of Christ, Scientist.** Christian Science healing practitioner Ginny Luedeman discusses how Christian Science healed her from the effects of an abusive childhood, drug use, and divorce. *2 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 662–1694.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

"7th Annual Spring Sunday Sampler": Southeast Michigan Astrologers' Round Table. Local astrologer Bon Rose Fine hosts this minifestival to celebrate the vernal equinox and International Astrology Day that features talks by Michigan astrologers on **"Tarot Astrology"** and **"Astrology and Magic."** Door prize drawing. *2–5:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. 114 S. Main St. $15. 434–4555.*

★**Euphonium and Tuba Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M tuba and euphonium professor Fritz Kaenzig and student conductors direct this music-student ensemble in Sibelius's *Finlandia,* music from Verdi's *La Forza del Destino,* Ted Piltzecker's *Cacology,* and Scheidt's "In Dulce Jubilo." *2 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Albert Herring": U-M Opera Theatre Department. See 19 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Chicago": Saline Area Players. See 20 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": Blackbird Theatre Academy. See 19 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Gamelan Concert: U-M School of Music.** Wesleyan University music professor **Sumarsam** (see 21 Saturday) leads an Indonesian orchestra that features gongs and metallophones. The program is highlighted by *Babar Layar [Setting the Sail],* a 21-minute piece that was traditionally played at the beginning of official court functions. *3 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Angels in America: Millennium Approaches": EMU Theater Department. See 20 Friday. 3 p.m.

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 1 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**"Five Trebles Concert": Boychoir of Ann Arbor.** Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs 5 Boychoir treble choristers in a program of sacred and secular solos, duets, and trios, including works by Richard Dering, Handel, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams, Faure, and Copland. The 5 singers—Michael DiLaura, Andrew Cadavieco, Rashawn Nesbit, Jude Russell, and Paul Keenan—join forces for the finale, a performance of Arthur Sullivan's "The Lost Chord" that concludes with a glorious high F in the final phrase. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free, but donations accepted. 663–5377.*

★**Annual All-Choir Concert: Temple Beth Emeth.** Cantor Annie Rose leads the singers in the Temple Beth Emeth youth, middle and high school, and adult choirs in a program TBA. Also, sing-alongs. *4 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Rd. Free. 665–4744.*

★**Fu-Xi Piano Trio: Friends of Chamber Music at Pease.** Recital by this new trio led by local pianist Zhihua Tang and featuring DSO violinist Hai Xin Wu and DSO principal cellist Robert DeMaine. Program TBA. *4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Empire Brass: Concordia University. Performance by this renowned brass quintet, the Boston University quintet-in-residence. "They simply have no competition when it comes to the beauty and clarity and accuracy and balance and interaction of their playing," says the *Boston Globe*. "The first phrase of any Empire Brass performance . . . sends a thrill of pleasure through your nervous system." *4 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. $15. 995–7300.*

"The Planets": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Arie Lipsky directs the orchestra in a family concert featuring music from *Star Wars* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*, selections from Holst's *The Planets*, and more. Attendees encouraged to dress as their favorite character from a space movie or book. Preceded at 2:30 p.m. in the lobby by a "string instrument petting zoo" and other kids activities. *4 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 (kids, $5) in advance at the A2SO ticket office (220 E. Huron) and a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

★**Society of Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Half of a Yellow Sun,*** Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's epic novel set during the 1960s Nigerian civil war about 2 Igbo sisters whose genteel lifestyle is disrupted by the conflict. *6–8 p.m., Borders cafe, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Rock Concert: Ann Arbor Music Center.** Live music by students of the Ann Arbor Music Center Rock Band School. *7–9 p.m., Starbucks, 1214 South University. Free. 665–0375.*

"Sunday Night Live!": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. A family-friendly concert featuring local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist **Spencer Michaud** and guest musicians TBA. Also, Curtis Glatter leads a free family-friendly **drum circle,** 6:30–7:30 p.m. *7–9 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. $5. 945–8602.*

★**Michigan Youth Jazz Improvisation: U-M School of Music.** Mark Kirschenmann directs this high school ensemble in a program TBA. *7 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Zakir Hussain: University Musical Society. This Grammy-winning Indian musician is widely regarded as one of the world's best tabla players. "Hussain's tabla playing . . . was distinguished by both its subtle interplay and, in more outgoing sections, the sheer visceral appeal of hearing such an array of timbres bursting at great speeds from such a deceptively simple-looking instrument," says a *New York Times* review. "[He] has the uncommon ability to make his percussion instruments sing." Accompanist is master santoor (Indian hammered dulcimer) player **Shivkumar Sharma.** *7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. $20–$46 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

23 MONDAY

★**"Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience": Interdenominational Advocates for Peace.** Boston-based physician **Alice Rothchild,** a member of the Jewish Voice for Peace steering committee, discusses her new book. *7–8:45 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 668–1358.*

★**"The Hindus: An Alternative History": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** University of Chicago history of religions professor **Wendy Doniger,** a renowned and controversial Hinduism scholar, discusses her new book. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Michigan Youth Ensembles: U-M School of Music.** Performances by high school ensembles directed by U-M music faculty. Julie Skadsem conducts the Michigan Youth Women's Chorale, Paul Rardin conducts the Michigan Youth Chamber Singers, Rodney Dorsey conducts the Michigan Youth Band, and Anthony Elliott conducts the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra in works TBA. *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763–0594.*

★**Jazz Combos: U-M School of Music.** *Mar. 23 & 24.* Robert Hurst directs jazz students in standards, student compositions, and works by the late U-M jazz professor Donald Walden. *8 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

24 TUESDAY

★**"The Vioxx Drug Catastrophe: A Story of Ethical and Regulatory Failure": U-M Medical School Forum on Health Policy.** Talk by veteran pharmaceutical executive and consultant **Tom Nesi,** author of *Poison Pills: The Untold Story of the Vioxx Drug Scandal. Noon–1 p.m., U-M Biomedical Science Research Auditorium, 109 Zina Pitcher Place. Free. 994–0727.*

★**"Including Dogs, Horses, Cows, Dalits, and Women: An Alternative Narrative of the Hindus": U-M Institute for the Humanities Jill Harris Lecture.** Lecture by University of Chicago history of religions professor Wendy Doniger. Reception follows. *4–6 p.m., Palmer Commons, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Peter Carey: U-M English Department.** Reading by this Booker Prize–winning Australian-born New York novelist. Carey's new novel *His Illegal Self* explores an unconventional mother-son relationship set against the backdrop of the 60s and 70s counterculture in the Australian outback. *5 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 615–3710.*

★**"The Ajanta Caves of India": Ann Arbor District Library.** Slide-illustrated talk by U-M art history professor emeritus Walter Spink on these magnificent Buddhist cave paintings and sculptures that go back to the 2nd century B.C. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Lytton Smith: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This New York City poet reads from ***The All-Purpose Magical Tent,*** a collection of poems employing a variety of personae and traditional forms that enact the tension between an apparent future and a disappearing past that reappears in memory and memorials. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"Choral Cavalcade North": Ann Arbor Public Schools. Performances by student choirs from Skyline High School and Forsythe and Clague middle schools. Proceeds benefit middle and high school choirs. *7 p.m., Skyline High School, 2552 N. Maple. $5 (families, $10; students & seniors, $2). 994–6515.*

★**Arts Chorale: U-M School of Music.** Grad student conductor John Trotter directs this ensemble of nonmusic majors in Mozart's uplifting "Benedictus Sit Deus," choral works based on Caribbean and North American oral traditions, and more. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music.** This U-M music faculty ensemble performs Dvorak's Piano Quintet in A Major and Schoenberg's Trio for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano. Also, works by Eric Ewazen and Mary Simoni. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Jazz Combos: U-M School of Music.** See 23 Monday. 8 p.m.

25 WEDNESDAY

★**"Temptation and Trespass: Ethics and Decision Making in the Pharmaceutical Industry": U-M Health System.** Talk by U-M Residential College clinical psychology lecturer Henry Greenspan. *Noon–1 p.m., Mott Children's Hospital Auditorium, 1505 Simpson (off E. Medical Center Dr. from Observatory). Free. 615–2765.*

★**"Europe's Political and Economic Challenges": U-M Center for European Studies "Conversations on Europe."** Talk by U-M Ford School of Public Policy International Policy Center director **Jan Svejnar,** a former candidate for president of the Czech Republic. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**Alan Guth: U-M Physics Department Ford Motor Company Distinguished Lecture in Physics.** Talk by this award-winning MIT physics professor, an expert on cosmology. *4 p.m., 2140 U-M Natural Sciences Bldg., 830 North University. Free. 764–4437.*

★**Artists' Talks: U-M Prison Creative Arts Project.** Formerly incarcerated artists discuss their experiences with the PCAP, a U-M program that brings art activities to adult and juvenile correctional facilities around the state. In conjunction with a prisoner art exhibit at the Duderstadt Center (see Galleries). *6:15 p.m., U-M Duderstadt Media Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 647–7673.*

★**Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and discuss their current gadgets and toys. *7 p.m., A2 Mech Shop, 240 Parkland Plaza, 179 Little Lake Dr. (off eastbound Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 332–1000.*

★**"Social Security Online": Ann Arbor District Library.** Social Security Administration representatives Joanne Ashended and Frances Heimes-Savickis present an overview of Social Security programs and services and discuss how to use its website. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Hillary Jordan: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This young fiction writer from upstate New York reads from ***Mudbound,*** her prize-winning debut novel, set in 1946, about the struggles of 2 families, one black and one white, on a Mississippi Delta farm. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual

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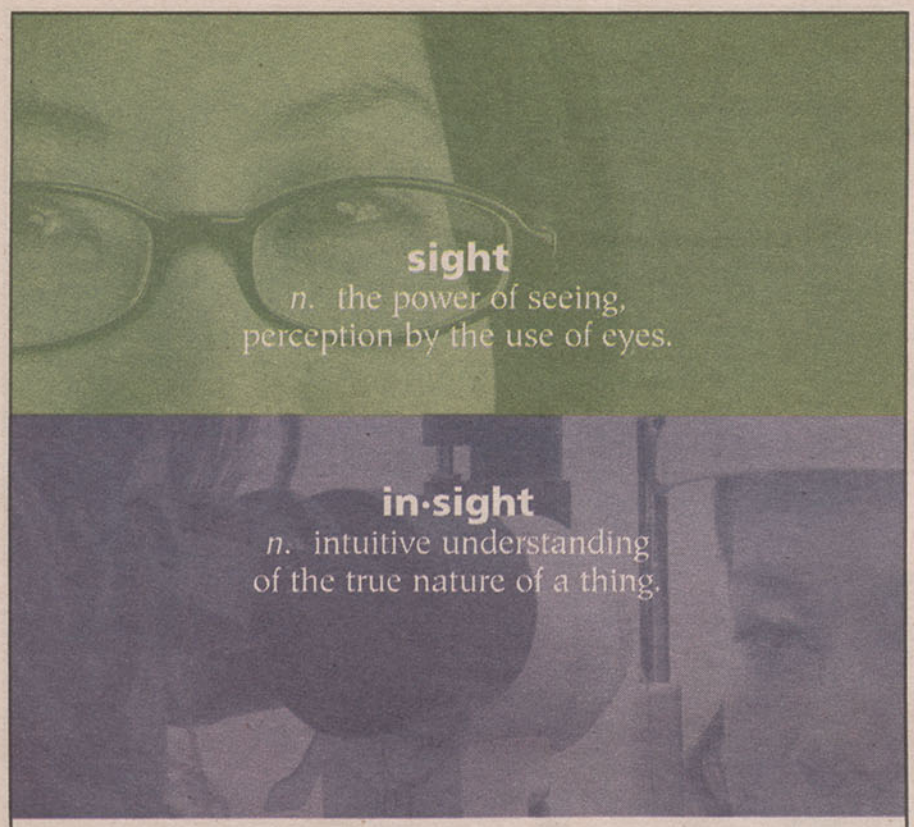
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and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk on the relationship to self—body, mind, sexuality, spirituality, and personality—and answers personal and universal questions. Also, socializing. *7:30 p.m., 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entry on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations are accepted. 477–5848.*

★**"Works of Divinity": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.** Screening of this documentary about bonsai master Shinji Suzuki and the year he spent creating a bonsai masterpiece. Followed by discussion. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 747–6493.*

★**Henry M. Loud Lecture: U-M Wesley Foundation.** Talk by **Shane Clairborne,** founder of the Simple Way (Philadelphia), a community of radical Christians who live among the poor and homeless. *7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free. 668–6881.*

★**Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Dennis Wilson directs this music-student ensemble in a program TBA. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** This music-student ensemble performs works TBA. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Star Gazing: Field Astronomy": U-M Astronomy Department. A speaker TBA gives a talk about astronomy. Followed by guided naked-eye stargazing. Hot chocolate and cookies. *8:30–10 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $5 (kids, $2; U-M students, free). Reservations required. 647–7600.*

26 THURSDAY

"Global Warming/Climate Change Lecture Series": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. *Every Thurs., Mar. 26–Apr. 30.* A series of 6 lectures by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: U-M geological sciences professor Samuel Mukasa discusses **"Climate Change: Lessons Learned from Antarctic Glacial Ice."** *10–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $35 (members, $20) for the 6-lecture series, $25 (members, $10) per lecture. Memberships are $15 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.*

"Jack and the Beanstalk": Wild Swan Theater. *Mar. 26–28.* This award-winning local children's theater presents local playwright Jeff Duncan's humorous musical adaptation of the classic story of the clever Jack, his 5 magic beans, and a silly giant, in a production geared toward kids age 3 & older. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. Suitable for kids in grades pre-K to 3. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children & seniors, $8; lap passes for kids age 2 & under, $3) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★**"Ann Arbor: One Midsize City's Move Toward a Renewable Energy Future": WCC Environmental Awareness Club/Phi Theta Kappa.** Talk by mayor **John Hieftje.** *2 p.m., WCC Health & Fitness Center, 4833 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3500.*

★**"Blackness and Whiteness in the Montevideo Carnival, 1900–2000": U-M Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.** Talk by University of Pittsburgh history professor George Andrews. Followed by a reception. *4–6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 647–0844.*

★**"A Europeanization from Below? Social Movements and Europe": U-M Center for European Studies.** Talk by European University Institute (Florence) sociology professor Donatella della Porta. *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**"Magical Nominalism: Photography and the Reenchantment of the World": U-M Germanic Language and Literature Annual Werner Grilk Lecture in German Studies.** Lecture by University of California history professor Martin Jay. *2–4 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room. Free. 764–5397.*

★**U-M John Dewey Lecture: U-M Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning.** Applied Research Center (Oakland, CA) director Gary Delgado discusses how he uses his race and ethnicity research as a foundation for advocacy work. *4:15 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 647–7402.*

★**"An Unauthorized History": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by **George Manupelli,** founder of the Ann Arbor Film Festival (see Films listing). *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★**Zachary Lazar and Saher Alam: U-M English Department.** Fiction readings by these 2 novelists. Lazar's 2008 novel *Sway* is an "elegant and intricate" portrait of the 60s in which "the freedom that is often vaunted as the cri de coeur of the 60s is entirely stripped of its communal ideal," says a *New York Times* review. Alam's 2008 novel *The Groom to Have Been* tells the story of a young Indian American man whose mother arranges a marriage for him, but his relationship to Indian traditions is disrupted in the wake of 9/11. *The Groom* contains "the pleasures of a sustained session of eavesdropping, the curious joy of a glimpse through a stranger's window," says one reviewer. *5 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 615–3710.*

"Big Spring Tasting": Morgan & York. Several winemakers discuss and offer tastings of estate-bottled wines. Also, cheeses and charcuterie. Proceeds benefit SafeHouse. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Morgan & York, 1928 Packard. $45 in advance only at morganandyork.com. 662–0798.*

★**"Using Herbs to Address Inflammation": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner **Linda Diane Feldt.** *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**"Introduction to Vegetable Gardening": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Project Grow community gardens director Melissa Kesterson. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"What's New with the NASA Space Program": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by NASA astronomer Sten Odenwald, author of *The Astronomy Cafe* and other astronomy books for general audiences. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Linda Olsson: Liberty Borders.** This New Zealand-based novelist reads from ***Sonata for Miriam,*** her novel about a grieving composer who goes on an international journey to uncover the past and deal with his daughter's death. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Jan Beatty and Allison Hedge Coke: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Readings by these 2 poets. Beatty's ***Red Sugar*** is a collection of poems, alternately raw and tender, exploring our perceptions of our physical selves, and Coke's ***Off-Season City Pipe*** is a collection of poems, drawing on her background as a tobacco sharecropper, factory worker, and fisherwoman, exploring the contrast between a tradition of labor that instills pride and builds strong communities and the contemporary reality of backbreaking work that fails to provide sustenance for the land or its people. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"Angels in America: Perestroika": EMU Theater Department. *Mar. 26–28 & Apr. 3–5.* EMU drama professor Lee Stille directs EMU drama students in the concluding "Perestroika" segment of the Pulitzer Prize–winning Tony Kushner 2–play series that can fairly be said to have redefined modern American theater. (A production of the 1st segment, "Millennium Approaches," opens March 20; see listing.) *7 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12; kids age 12 & under, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

★**"Summertime": Basement Arts.** *Mar. 26–28.* U-M theater student Julia Albain directs U-M students in Charles Mee's airy, surrealist romance that models itself on Shakespearean pastoral comedies. In this dialogue-driven play, Mee "attempts to make sense of the senseless but often lifelong relationships that develop between men and women," says L.A. writer Steven Mikulan. *7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basement@umich.edu.*

"Blather, Blarney, and Balderdash": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. *Mar. 26–29.* Jacqueline Courteau directs young local actors in Patrick Rainville Dorn's story of 3 wacky leprechauns who tell folktales to a tongue-tied shepherd so that he can learn the art of storytelling and woo his girl. *7:30 p.m., WCC Liberal Arts Bldg. College Theater, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $5 in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

"The Bride of Thurstonstein": Thurston Community Players. *Mar. 26–28.* Phil Zaret directs 200 Thurston Elementary School students, parents, and friends in the school's 35th annual original play, a musical about 3 possible princesses born in the Kingdom of Thurstonstein. The kingdom must hold a trial to discover the true heiress to the throne before she comes of age and is married to a prince from one of the neighboring kingdoms of Loganstein, Burnsparkstein, and Dickenstein. *7:30 p.m., Clague Middle School auditorium, 2616 Nixon. Tickets $8 (kids, $6) at the door only. 994–1970.*

"The Life of Galileo": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. *Mar. 26–29. See review, p. 57.* U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in Bertolt Brecht's drama about the struggle

between Galileo and the Catholic Church that ended with his silencing by the Inquisition. Initially written as an oblique critique of the Nazi repression of scientists and artists, the play continues to resonate with the perennial conflict between scientific inquiry and dogmatisms of various stripes. Also, a free **symposium** on the play at 2 p.m. on March 28 in room 126 (next to the RC Auditorium). *7:30 p.m., U-M Residential College Auditorium, East Quad off Willard between Church and East University. $10 (students with ID, free). 647–4354.*

★**"Disguised as a Poem": U-M Prison Creative Arts Program.** San Francisco poet **Judith Tannenbaum** discusses her memoir about her experience teaching poetry to San Quentin prisoners in the 80s. *8 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 647–7673.*

Impact Dance. *Mar. 26 & 27.* This 12-member all-female company of nondance majors presents an energetic, varied program of original dances in various idioms. Although the students aren't dance majors, Impact's quality of dance is quite high. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

★**Trombone Ensemble Concert: U-M School of Music.** This music-student ensemble performs works by Frescobaldi, Grainger, Shostakovich, and others. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Campus Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Grad student conductors Oriol Sans and Yaniv Segal direct this ensemble of nonmusic majors in the Overture to Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld,* excerpts from Bizet's *Carmen Suite,* Schubert's Symphony no. 8, and the "Hungarian March" from Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust. 8 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Ian Hominick: EMU Music Department.** Recital by this University of Mississippi piano professor. Program TBA. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

"50th Anniversary Concert": The Romeros (University Musical Society). Lauded as "the royal family of guitar," the Romeros virtually invented the classical guitar quartet and have reigned as its undisputed monarchs since 1957, inspiring works by such composers as Joaquin Rodrigo and Federico Moreno Torroba. Founded by Celedonio Romero and his sons Pepe, Celin, and Angel, the quartet now includes Pepe, Celin, Celin's son Celino, and Angel's son Lito. Their vast repertoire spans early to modern classical guitar works, highlighted by virtuosic performances of flamenco pieces. Tonight's program: the Prelude from Ruperto Chapi's *La Revoltosa,* Gaspar Sanz's *Spanish Suite,* Pepe Romero's *Farrucas,* Albeniz's *Granada,* Villa-Lobos's Preludes nos. 1 & 3, and more. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $22–$46 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You" and "Confessions of the Easter Bunny": Emergent Arts. *Mar. 26–29.* Tim Henning directs both of these 1–act comedies. Christopher Durang's *Sister Mary Ignatius* is about some delightfully dysfunctional Catholic school alumni who spoil Sister Mary's stuffy lesson on venial and mortal sins. Henning's *Confessions of the Easter Bunny* exposes Peter Cottontail's disappointment with his chosen profession and its occupational hazards of high egg quotas and an arugula addiction. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (students with ID & seniors, $15) in advance at emergentarts.com and at the door. 330–7815.*

"Twelfth Night": Blackbird Theatre Academy. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Shane Mauss: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Mar. 26–28.* Ann Arbor debut of this animated Wisconsin-bred young comic, a frequent guest of Conan O'Brien who specializes in fresh, sharp-eyed observational humor about his experiences growing up. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

27 FRIDAY

★**"Talk Show Democracy: The Media and Its Public": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** Talks by visiting and U-M scholars, including sessions on **"American Media and Its American Public"** (10:30 a.m.–noon), **"The Rise of the Celebrity News Genre in the 1950s"** (1–1:45 p.m.), **"Voice, Violence, and Democracy"** (1:45–2:30 p.m.), and **"South African Media and the State of Things"**

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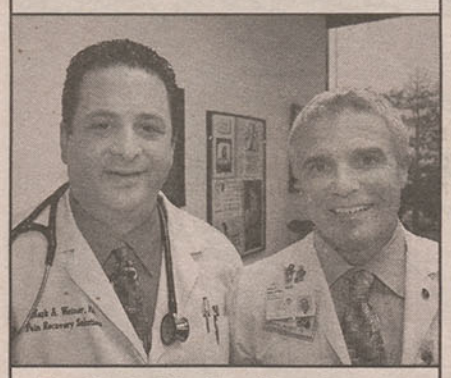
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(2:45–5 p.m.). *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Palmer Commons Forum Hall, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 936–3518.*

"Jack and the Beanstalk": Wild Swan Theater. See 26 Thursday. Today's 10 a.m. show is sold out. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists. See 6 Friday. Today: students of U-M organ professor **James Kibbie** play works TBA. Noon.

U-M Opera Workshop. *Mar. 27, 30, & 31 (different programs).* Today: Joshua Major directs U-M opera students in early-20th-century Italian composer Pietro Mascagni's ***Zanetto.*** *5 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–2538.*

★Prism Quartet: U-M School of Music. Founded in 1984 by local sax virtuoso and U-M saxophone professor Donald Sinta, this quartet of U-M alums performs progressive saxophone music. The *New York Times* calls the group "mellifluous and stylistically versatile." Program TBA. *5:15 p.m., U-M Music School Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★Last Friday Ride: Ann Arbor Critical Mass. Join members of this local group that promotes bikes for urban commuting for a leisurely round-trip downtown ride sprinkled with a few fervent probike chants. *5:30 p.m., corner of North University & State. Free. 769–9136.*

★"You Can Heal Your Life": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. Screening of this 2007 documentary based on motivational writer Louise Hay's popular 1984 self-help book. *7–9 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free. 945–8602.*

★Daniel Bernard Roumain: U-M School of Music. This innovative Haitian American composer, whose music is known for combining classical music with funk, rock, and hip-hop, is joined by U-M faculty and students. Program TBA. *7 p.m., Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Angels in America: Perestroika": EMU Theater Department. See 26 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★"Summertime": Basement Arts. See 26 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

★Peder Eide: Concordia University. Concert by this Christian acoustic singer-songwriter from Minnesota. *7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free, but tickets required at cuaa.edu. 995–7300.*

"Fiddler on the Roof": Greenhills School. *Mar. 27 & 28.* Emily Wilson-Tobin directs Greenhills students in Joseph Stein, Jerry Bock, and Sheldon Harnick's beloved, heartwarming musical, based on stories by celebrated Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem, about life in a small Russian Jewish community around 1900. The popular score's many familiar songs include "If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset," and "To Life." *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Tickets $10 (students, $5) in advance and at the door. 205–4098.*

"Blather, Blarney, and Balderdash": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 26 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Bride of Thurstonstein": Thurston Community Players. See 26 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Life of Galileo": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. See 26 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★Performing Arts Technology Showcase: U-M School of Music. A kaleidoscope of electroacoustic music by performing arts technology students. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Michael Johnson: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). A veteran folk-based pop singer and virtuoso guitarist who started out (with John Denver) as a member of a late-60s incarnation of the Chad Mitchell Trio, Johnson has scored in a number of different genres, including adult contemporary in the late 70s and contemporary country in the mid-80s. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Tim Miller: Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. *Mar. 27 & 28.* This veteran Los Angeles performance artist is best known for his pieces about gay identity and immigration. "Miller is a savvy writer who deliberately toys with the conventions of modern gay narrative," says an *IndyWeek.com* review. *8 p.m., Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 663–0036.*

"Spinning into Butter": U-M Rude Mechanicals. *Mar. 27–29.* U-M theater student Max Kaufman directs U-M students in Rebecca Gilman's drama about some hate mail that exposes the latent racism on a small New England college campus. *Spinning* "is a complex, unnerving look at the way real people navigate between [racism and the perils of political correctness]," says a *Time* review. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. $5 (students, $3). 763–1107.*

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

southern roots music

Paul Thorn

Bringing the roadhouse to the Ark



One of former Ark program director Dave Siglin's great legacies is the group of strong, often outrageous roots music personalities he brought to the club—a group seldom seen at most other folk and acoustic music venues around the country. You'd be more likely to find the Reverend Billy C. Wirtz in a bar or at an outdoor music festival than at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music or Cambridge's Club Passim. But performers of this kind have been welcome at the Ark, and that's still true even with Dave's retirement: witness Paul Thorn, who'll play a solo show there on Saturday, March 28 (see Nightspots, p. 66). Thorn is from Tupelo, Mississippi, and his show offers a taste of the old low-down southern roadhouse.

Thorn has had a colorful life that included six rounds in the boxing ring with lightweight champ Roberto Durán, an experience that inspired Thorn's song "I'd Rather Be a Hammer (Than a Nail)." He comes from deep enough in the South to have African American cadences in both his music and his speech, and there's an element in his songbag of the kind of old blues routine that gets its energy from a confessional streak that cuts very close to the bone. His show also includes southern satires of the sort Wirtz writes, like "Joanie, the Jehovah's Witness Stripper" (the Lord showed her how to make $1,000 a night) and a tall tale about a suicidal man who lands in the arms of an 800-pound Jesus he bought at a garage sale.

Unlike Wirtz, but like his forebears on the blues side, Thorn can play it straight. He balances out the comedy with country barroom introspection like "Where Was I (When You Stopped Lovin' Me)?" and a good deal of between-songs patter that, for all the raunch, looks on the positive side of human relationships. Thorn grew up as the son of a Pentecostal preacher, and although he wrote a celebrated *This I Believe* essay a few years ago rejecting a Christianity of fear, a bit of his father's influence must be present in his shows. It all comes together in a song about "the Holy Ghost Big Bang Theory Pentecostal Fire and Brimstone Mission Temple Fireworks Stand," a one-of-a-kind call-and-response number about a black minister who gives up his pulpit so that he can be a "human bottle rocket" when the Lord returns.

—James M. Manheim

"Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You" and "Confessions of the Easter Bunny": Emergent Arts. See 26 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": Blackbird Theatre Academy. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Impact Dance. See 26 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Shane Mauss: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

28 SATURDAY

Spring Craft Show: Saline Community Education. Juried show and sale of works by more than 135 crafters from around the Midwest. Also, bake sale and raffle. *8 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $2. 429–8020.*

★"Catching the Early Birds": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look for migrating waterfowl. Bring binoculars if you have them. Followed by drinks at the Beach Center. Also, at 2 p.m., storytelling and a hike for kids ages 4–7 to look for spring animals (preregistration required). *9–11 a.m., meet at the boat launch, Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. $5 vehicle entry fee. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★"Beyond Earth: Space Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum. A variety of family-oriented activities, experiments, and exhibits exploring the world beyond the Earth. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"Brunch with Ari": Zingerman's Roadhouse/ Ann Arbor Book Festival. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig hosts a brunch featuring recipes from his forthcoming book ***Bacon,*** while sharing some recipes from the book and discussing the process of putting it together. *10 a.m.–noon, Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $22. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★Downtown Home & Garden Spring Lecture Series. The series begins this year with **Mark the Lawn Doctor,** who explains and answers questions about growing and caring for an **organic lawn.** *10 a.m.–1 p.m., DH&G, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★"Michigan Harpsichord Saturday": U-M School of Music. An opportunity to play and listen to harpsichords. Recitals by U-M music professor **Edward Parmentier** and U-M music grad student **Emily Morlan.** Also, informal free walk-in lessons by U-M students, and harpsichords to play on. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., U-M Music School Moore Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 665–2217.*

★"Easter Egg Scramble": Ann Arbor Jaycees. For kids ages 1–11 accompanied by a parent, in the snow if necessary. Also, a chance to visit with and take pictures of the Easter Bunny, play games, and decorate eggs. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., Vets Park. Free. 718–9153.*

"Jack and the Beanstalk": Wild Swan Theater. See 26 Thursday. 11 a.m.

★"The Spring Alpines of the Aragonian Pyrenees": North American Rock Garden Society. Talk by Memorial University of Newfoundland horticulturist Todd Boland. *1:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 996–0692.*

U-M Softball Doubleheader vs. Loyola-Chicago. *2 p.m., Alumni Field (behind Ray Fisher Stadium), S. State at Hoover. $4 (youths age 12 & under, $2; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

"Angels in America: Millennium Approaches": EMU Theater Department. See 20 Friday. 2 p.m.

★"42nd Street": Ann Arbor District Library. U-M musical theater professor Linda Goodrich discusses her upcoming April production of this 1980 Broadway musical adapted from the 1933 Busby Berkeley film. *3–4:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

"Creative Energy Dance (Animals and Masks)": Nightfire. Members of this local dance theater troupe lead participants in a session of freestyle dancing based on everyday movements, with a focus on masked dancing and learning movement from animals. Masks provided, or bring your own. *3–5 p.m., Ommoves Studio, 418 N. Fourth Ave. $5–$20 sliding scale. 996–1772.*

★"24-Hour Grand Reopening": U-M Museum of Art. An entire day of activities to celebrate the reopening of the recently renovated U-M Museum of Art. Highlights include performances by the U-M Men's and Women's **Glee Clubs** and the **Boychoir of Ann Arbor** (6–8 p.m.), former Ann Arborites country-folk singer-songwriter **Whit Hill** and her husband, guitarist **Al Hill** (8–10 p.m.), and the popular local acoustic duo **Gemini** (11 a.m.). Also, a **dance party** (11 p.m.–4 a.m.), Dance Dance Revo-

lution and Rock Band (4–6 a.m.), yoga and tai chi (6–10 a.m.), poetry readings by U-M English professor **Keith Taylor** and local high school teacher and poet **Jeff Kass** (1 p.m.), talks by UMMA curators (1–4 p.m.), and more. *6 p.m. Sat.–6 p.m. Sun., U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State St. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"Michigan Review of Prisoner Creative Writing": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Appalachian State University creative writing professor **Joseph Bathanti** introduces **Ken Thornhill** and **Katherine Guyton,** 2 former prisoners who read their poetry, which is featured in the 2009 issue of this publication, which Bathanti edited. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"59th Annual Bands in Review": Ann Arbor Public Schools. *Mar. 28 & 29.* More than 800 public school students perform in these lively concerts. Also, jazz in the lobby by the Community High Jazz Combo (6–7 p.m.). Tonight: the Ann Arbor Open @ Mack Advanced Band, the Scarlett, Tappan, and Clague middle school bands, the Pioneer Symphony band, and the Huron Varsity, Concert, and Symphony bands. *7 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Tickets $3 (family of 4, $8) in advance from band members and at the door. 996–3210.*

"The Bride of Thurstonstein": Thurston Community Players. See 26 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Angels in America: Perestroika": EMU Theater Department. See 26 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Summertime": Basement Arts.** See 26 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Hearts and Hands: Creating Community in Troubled Times": U-M Prison Creative Arts Program.** Luis Rodriguez discusses his experience as a former gang member and his involvement in community-based work. *7:30 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 647–7673.*

"A Celebration of the African American Spiritual": Our Own Thing Chorale. Revered U-M music professor emeritus Willis Patterson directs this popular local choir known for its distinctive interpretations of African American spirituals and contemporary choral pieces. Proceeds benefit the Back Door Food Pantry and other St. Clare's hunger outreach programs. *7:30 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard at Eastover. Tickets $15 (students, $7; sponsors, $30) at the door. 662–2449.*

"Blather, Blarney, and Balderdash": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 26 Thursday. 1 & 7:30 p.m.

"Fiddler on the Roof": Greenhills School. See 27 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Life of Galileo": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. See 26 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

4th Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Caller TBA with music by the Millers. No partner needed. All dances taught. Beginner lessons at 7:30 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes, and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 730–6919.*

★**"Beethoven: The Sonata Obsession": U-M School of Music.** *Mar. 28 & 29 (different programs).* U-M music students perform the 16th & 17th in a 2-year series of concerts featuring Beethoven's complete sonatas. Tonight: Sonata for Piano and Violin in G Major and *Archduke Piano Trio. 8 p.m., Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

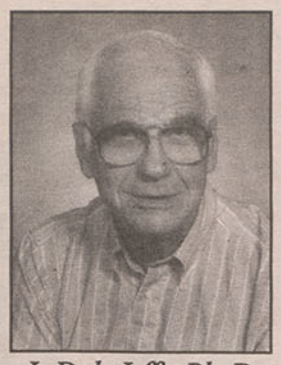
Bill Bynum & Co.: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Acoustic quartet led by Bynum, a highly-regarded Downriver singer-songwriter and guitarist whose bluegrass-based songs also draw on old-time, early country, gospel, and contemporary folk music. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $10 at the door only. 665–0409.*

"24-Hour Theater": 826michigan Fund-Raiser. Local teens in this nonprofit writing lab perform several short plays they wrote, rehearsed, and designed sets and costumes for, all within the past 24 hours. *8 p.m., The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. $5 at the door only. 761–3463.*

"Summer Me, Winter Me": Kerrytown Concert House. Cabaret performance by Philadelphia-born and Broadway-seasoned local cabaret singer and actress **Naz Edwards.** Accompanist is local pianist Jerry DePuit. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. *Mar. 28 and Apr. 4 & 11.* Dreamland Theater owner Naia Venturi directs San Francisco composer Jess Rowland's Dadaist opera about the American culture of teeth and our most primal fears and dental insecurities. Free lollipops at the end of the show. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $10 (students & seniors, $8). 657–2337.*

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Dan Zanes plays kid-friendly tunes at Rackham Auditorium Mar. 29.

"Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You" and "Confessions of the Easter Bunny": Emergent Arts. See 26 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Spinning into Butter": U-M Rude Mechanicals. See 27 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": Blackbird Theatre Academy. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tim Miller: Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. See 27 Friday. 8 p.m.

Robin Williams: Live Nation. Ann Arbor debut—believe it or not—of this legendary stand-up comic and actor known for his hyperanimated brand of the cerebral slapstick pioneered by Jonathan Winters. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $65–$445 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

Shane Mauss: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

29 SUNDAY

★"Superstar Signs: Sun Signs of Heroes, Celebrities, and You": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Salon. Professional astrologer **Chrissie Blaze** discusses her new book. Signing. *1 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757, 665–9160.*

★"Origami": Ann Arbor District Library. Magic Squares present a hands-on introduction to this ancient Japanese art of paper folding. For 4th-graders through adults. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★"You Are Here": Alzheimer's Association. Screening of Tim Jeffrey's drama about early onset Alzheimer's. Followed by a panel discussion with area Alzheimer's experts. *1–5 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. Preregistration requested. 475–7043.*

Dan Zanes & Friends: University Musical Society. Sophisticated yet fun kids music—*Rolling Stone* calls Zanes "a happy alternative to Raffi"—by this Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, the former frontman of the Del Fuegos, the influential 80s Boston-based rock 'n' roll band. Singing in a voice that combines a Tom Waits rasp with the energy of Mick Jagger, Zanes mixes standards like "Polly Wolly Doodle" and "On the Sunny Side of the Street" performed on banjo and mandolin with original rock songs and reggae- and calypso-inflected tunes performed on electric guitar. His concerts generally begin with a sing-along and end with an all-ages dance party. Tonight's concert features Spanish tunes from his 2008 CD *Nueva York!* He performs with his backup band. *1 & 4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $20 (kids, $10) in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Blather, Blarney, and Balderdash": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 26 Thursday. 1 p.m.

★"Glaciers and Park Lyndon: From High Hills to Low Lands": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to learn about ancient mile-high ice sheets and to walk on geological formations they left behind, such as kames and kettle holes. *Note:* This is a strenuous hike; no small children. *2–5 p.m., Park Lyndon South (west parking lot), North Territorial Rd. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★"The Detroit Observatory and the Victorian Space Race": Ann Arbor District Library. U-M Detroit Observatory program coordinator Karen Wright discuss the role of the observatory in U-M president Tappan's efforts to transform the U-M into one of the country's first research universities. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Italian Family Cultural Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library. Kids from babies through 5th-graders invited for Italian treats and music and to make a carnival mask and a colorful flag. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Beethoven: The Sonata Obsession": U-M School of Music. See 28 Saturday. Tonight: Piano Sonatas nos. 27 & 28 and Piano and Cello Sonatas nos. 1 & 2. 2 p.m.

"The Life of Galileo": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. See 26 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Spinning into Butter": U-M Rude Mechanicals. See 27 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You" and "Confessions of the Easter Bunny": Emergent Arts. See 26 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": Blackbird Theatre Academy. See 19 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Feminine Ending": Performance Network Professional Season. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Joseph Gramley directs this music-student ensemble in Erik Santos's "Kata-Kata," a marimba duo by Gabriela Lena Frank, and Tan Dun's "Elegy: Snow in June." *3 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"58th Annual Bands in Review": Ann Arbor Public Schools. See 28 Saturday. Today: the Forsythe and Slauson middle school bands, the Skyline Varsity Band, the Huron Symphony Band, and the Pioneer Varsity, Concert, and Symphony bands. 3 p.m.

"Angels in America: Millennium Approaches": EMU Theater Department. See 20 Friday. 3 p.m.

Kinobe & Soul Beat Africa: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Traditional Ugandan folk music in techno-funk arrangements with contemporary instrumentation by this London-based ensemble led by the young Ugandan musician Kinobe. Desserts & coffee available. *3 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

★Karyna McGlynn: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This Concordia University (Austin, Texas) adjunct English professor, a U-M creative writing grad student who has been a member of the Ann Arbor, Aus-

tin, and Seattle National Poetry Slam teams, reads from ***Alabama Steve,*** her new collection of poems featuring an anonymous speaker adrift amid a panoply of Steves in a fantasyland where date-raping praying mantises become gay flight attendants, Beowulf rides a chopper through Canada, and skull-licking is common practice among the academic elite. Signing. *4 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★Campus Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Grad student conductor Yaniv Segal directs this ensemble of nonmusic majors in works TBA. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★Garik Pedersen: EMU Music Department. This EMU piano professor performs a program TBA. *4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

"Descubre Mi Mundo": 9th Annual U-M Latino Culture Show. U-M students present a variety show of Latino music, dance, spoken word, and other performing arts. *6 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $7 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and $10 at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★"Jazz Showcase: A Tribute to Donald Walden": U-M School of Music. Veteran Detroit jazz pianist **Barry Harris** is joined by U-M jazz faculty and the U-M Jazz Ensemble, Latin Jazz Ensemble, and Honors Jazz Combo in a program in honor of the late U-M jazz professor Donald Walden. *8 p.m., Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

30 MONDAY

★"Talk Show Democracy, the Funny Part: Political Humor and Its Role in Shaping the Democratic Process": U-M Institute for the Humanities. Panel discussion with *New Yorker* cartoon editor **Bob Mankoff,** the renowned political cartoonist **Patrick Oliphant,** and U-M history and American studies professor James Cook. Moderator is U-M Knight Wallace Fellows director Charles Eisendrath. *1–5 p.m., Palmer Commons, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 936–3518.*

★"Autobiography and Confessions: Two Pagans, a Christian, and Sexual Harassment": U-M Classics Department. Lecture by Oxford University ancient history fellow Robin Lane Fox. *4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. 647–8003.*

★"Challenges to Promoting Democracy from the Ground Up": U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. Talks by NYU social sciences professor Craig Calhoun and International Republican Institute president Lorne Craner. *5 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★"Paved Roads Country Roads Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Mon. beginning Mar. 30.* Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training ride, 18–24 miles, along country roads west of town. *5 p.m., meet at Royster Clark, 885 Parker Rd. at Pine Cross Lane (just south of Jackson Rd.), Scio Twp. Free. 426–5116.*

★Liliana Ursu: U-M English Department. Reading by this acclaimed Romanian poet. "Ursu's poems are like flowers at the edge of the abyss. They are beautifully clear and precise, but behind them one glimpses the presence of an ineradicable dark," says poet Mark Strand. *5 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 615–3710.*

U-M Opera Workshop. See 27 Friday. Today: Joshua Major directs U-M opera students in 2 operas by the early-20th-century Italian composer Pietro Mascagni, ***L'Amico Fritz*** (5 p.m.) and ***Zanetto*** (7:30 p.m.). 5 & 7:30 p.m.

★"From Child to Musician: Perspectives on Musical Development, Ability, and Identity": U-M School of Music. Talk by University of Illinois music education professor Gary McPherson. *7 p.m., U-M Stearns Bldg., Cady Room, 2005 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★"Naqshbandiyya: Ancient Sufi Order": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by University of Haifa (Israel) Middle Eastern studies professor Itzchak Weismann, currently a Dickinson College (Carlisle, Pennsylvania) visiting professor. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★"Betty Ford: Strength in a Package Marked Fragile": U-M Ford Presidential Library. Talk by Betty Ford's former assistant press secretary **Patti Matson.** Followed by reception. *7:30 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205–0555.*

★Student Brass Ensembles Concert: U-M School of Music. Music-student ensembles perform works TBA. *8 p.m., Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★"Mad about Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House. An informal concert by U-M music students of instrumental and vocal works in solos, duos, trios, and quartets. Proceeds benefit a local charity. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

31 TUESDAY

★Soledad O'Brien: U-M Center for the Education of Women. Talk by this popular CNN special correspondent whose recent work includes an interview with Michelle Obama and *Black in America,* a series of CNN documentaries about African Americans living in America 40 years after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. *4 p.m., Power Center. Free. Preregistration requested. 764–6005.*

★"On the Making of a Pop Icon: 'Chairman Mao Goes to Anyuan' and Chinese Contemporary Art": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. Lecture by U-M Chinese studies professor Xiaobing Tang. Reception follows. *4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 998–6251.*

U-M Opera Workshop. See 27 Friday. Today: Joshua Major directs U-M opera students in scenes from Handel's ***Radamisto,*** Gluck's ***Orfeo,*** Mozart's ***Figaro,*** Berlioz's ***Beatrice e Benedict,*** and Puccini's ***La Boheme.*** 5 p.m.

★"Why We Fight": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Screening of Eugene Jarecki's 2005 documentary about reasons for the U.S.'s frequent wars that concludes that wars are a by-product of an entrenched military-industrial complex. Followed by dessert and discussion. *7 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 663–1870.*

★"Painting and Politics in Romantic Hellenism": U-M Modern Greek Program Pallas Lecture. Lecture by Benaki Museum (Athens) curator Fani-Maria Tsigakou. *7 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 936–6099.*

★"Michigan Comics Show Panel Discussion": EMU Art Department. A panel discussion with *Speed Bump* comic strip creator **Dave Coverly** and other comic creators. In conjunction with the "Michigan Comics Show" (see Galleries). *7 p.m., EMU Student Center ballroom, 900 Oakwood (between Washtenaw & N. Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–0465.*

★"Inclined to Speak: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Poetry": Shaman Drum Bookshop. Detroit-bred poet **Hayan Charara** discusses this anthology he edited, and 3 poets featured in it—WSU creative writing teacher **Kevin Rashid, InsideOut Literary Arts Project** (Detroit) teacher **Alise Alousi,** and U-M creative writing professor **Khaled Mattawa**—read from their work. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★"Jews as Global Citizens: Our Responsibility in the World": Beth Israel Congregation. Talk by American Jewish World Services president **Ruth Messinger.** *7:30 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 665–9897.*

★U.S. Army Band Brass Quintet: U-M School of Music. Short program TBA. Followed by a master class. *7:30 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Morrissey: Live Nation. The frontman of the seminal 80s indie rock band the Smiths, Morrissey is a veteran L.A.-based British singer-songwriter whose songs, which range from introspective brooding on romantic and spiritual themes to caustic social observation, are known for their blend of incisive Wildean wit with an uncompromisingly bleak point of view. "Morrissey isn't just any singer," says a *New York Times* critic. "He has become one of the defining rock stars of the past few decades by virtue of his grand voice, his grander songs, and his charming habit of playing with melodrama." Morrissey has a brand-new CD, *Years of Refusal.* Opening act is **The Courteneers,** an acclaimed young Manchester, UK, indie rock quartet. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $39.50–$46.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge* by phone, call (248) 645–6666.

★"Low-Brass Fest": EMU Music Department. Matthew Tropman and Donald Babcock conduct their euphonium, trombone, and tuba students in a program of music for low brass instruments. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Student conductors direct this music-student orchestra in works by student composers. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a lecture about the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Arbor Brewing Company

114 E. Washington **213–1393**

This downtown brewpub features occasional live music, 9 p.m.–midnight unless otherwise noted. No cover, no dancing. **Mar. 17: Killarney Broadcast.** Traditional Celtic music by this local septet. 4–7 p.m. **Mar. 27: Mr. Largebeat.** Big-beat space-rock band led by veteran local singer-songwriter Jim Gertz, who plays a theremin (the original synthesizer) and percussion. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD, *Greetings from Out There*.

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. **Mar. 1: Lonesome County.** Hard-driving traditional bluegrass by this Michigan quintet, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. $12.50. **Mar. 2: "Drownin' on Dry Land."** A benefit for programs serving the homeless featuring **Blueshouse/313,** a local blues trio led by veteran English singer-guitarist Mike Brooks. With guest appearances by guitarists **Al Jacquez** and **Laurence Miller,** singer-songwriter **Shawn Garth Walker,** and vocalist **Shiba Palmer.** $20. **Mar. 3: Mike Marshall & Big Trio.** Post-bluegrass acoustic music by this trio led by legendary mandolinist Marshall and featuring 2 up-and-coming hotshots, fiddler Alex Hargreaves and bassist Paul Kowert. $20. **Mar. 4: Monte Montgomery.** Alabama-bred, Austin-based folk-rock singer-songwriter and acoustic guitar wizard known as "The Evel Knievel of Guitar." $15. **Mar. 5: Bettye Lavette.** Veteran Detroit R&B and blues-based soul singer with a tough, feisty, passionate vocal style. "A dynamic singer, when she periodically dropped the microphone to howl a cappella, she got the lawn crowd halfway across the park to howl back," says *Chicago Daily Herald* music critic Mark Guarino in his review of LaVette's performance at the 2005 Chicago Blues Festival. $20. **Mar. 6: Jonathan Coulton.** 38-year-old folk-rock singer-songwriter who specializes in songs celebrating and lampooning geek culture that have gained a strong cult following. Opening act is **Paul and Storm,** a duo from D.C. who blend geek-oriented comedy and music. $20. **Mar. 8: Duncan Sheik.** Pop-folk singer-songwriter known for his introspective lyrics, lush arrangements, and hauntingly intimate vocal style. Opening act **Lauren Pritchard,** a young Tennessee-bred singer-songwriter. $20. **Mar. 9: Anais Mitchell.** Acclaimed young pop-folk singer-songwriter with a deceptively girlish voice from rural Vermont whose songs feature emotionally direct, meticulously written lyrics that blend searching introspection and keen observation. $15. **Mar. 10: Beoga.** Acclaimed young quintet from County Antrim in Northern Ireland whose music incorporates an array of idioms from blues and Astor Piazzolla–style jazz to raunchy New Orleans R&B into a bouncy bedrock of traditional Irish music. $15. **Mar. 11: Shemekia Copeland.** The daughter of the late blues guitar legend Johnny Copeland, Copeland has established herself as one of the most compelling voices of contemporary blues. $20. **Mar. 12: The Bittersweets.** Rootsy folk-rock by this band led by the San Francisco–bred, Nashville-based duo of vocalist Hannah Prater and songwriter, guitarist, and keyboardist Chris Meyers. "The Bittersweets build their pop-folk arrangements around the alto of Hannah Prater, who sports a sure-handed, easy sultriness in her lower register and a fragile beauty when shifting to a higher tone," says *The Nashville Scene*. "But the trio's new album, *Goodnight, San Francisco,* eventually reveals that the band's greatest assets are the insightful, conversational lyrics of guitarist Chris Meyers, who has found a lovely delivery system in Prater's voice." $15. **Mar. 13: Liz Carroll & John Doyle.** Carroll, an acclaimed Irish American fiddler, known for what one reviewer called "quicksilver lines" who was named 2000 Traditional Musician of the Year by the *Irish Echo*, is accompanied by singer-guitarist Doyle. $20. **Mar. 14: The Ragbirds.** Inventive local country-rock band, fronted by singer-songwriter Erin Zindle, whose music mixes in elements of world music, groove rock, and edgy pop, using a diverse mix of instruments. $15. **Mar. 15: Jim Lauderdale.** Acclaimed country singer-songwriter whose songs typically offer an intoxicating blend of Bakersfield backbeat, mountain ache, and edgy romanticism. $20. **Mar. 16: Victor Wooten.** Celebrated electric bass wizard whose music spans a wide range of idioms, from jazz and progressive bluegrass to various shades of funk. $40. **Mar. 17: Crooked Still.** Adventurous Boston-area neobluegrass quartet that sports the self-styled "low lonesome" instrumentation of cello, bass, and banjo behind the winsome, soothing vocals of Aoife O'Donovan. "Crooked Still manages to amp up its ancient American tunes in unplugged yet groove-crazed ways," observes a *Boston Herald* reviewer. "Melody lines and rhythms crossbreed and shift focus. An expressive sense of dark, wild life ensues, [and] the bravura playing deepens the mood." $15. **Mar. 18: Howie Day.** 24-year-old folk-rock singer-songwriter from Bangor, Maine, known for his emotionally direct lyrics, melodic inventiveness, and lively, passionate vocals. $20. **Mar. 19: Ari Hest.** New York City singer-songwriter who writes thoughtful, earnestly introspective songs on personal themes and whose vocal style has been described as a cross between James Taylor and Peter Gabriel. Opening act is **Brendan James,** a New Hampshire–bred New York City pop-folk singer-songwriter and pianist. $15. **Mar. 21: Misty Lyn & the Big Beautiful.** Local country-pop band led by singer-songwriter Misty Lyn. $15. **Mar. 22: Jorma Kaukonen.** A founding member of Jefferson Airplane and a leader of the early 70s progressive blues band Hot Tuna, Kaukonen is a brilliant guitarist whose playing blends the fingerpicking style of Piedmont blues master Reverend Gary Davis with the deep resonance of the Delta blues. "Jorma Kaukonen's transition from psychedelic guitar innovator to acoustic folk-blues virtuoso seems complete," says *Boston Phoenix* reviewer Ted Drozdowski. "Kaukonen's voice is a ticket to the rural past, his relaxed phrases making the most of an expressive, tight range and dust-coated tone." $25. **Mar. 24: Chris Dorman.** Lansing singer-songwriter who writes about his friends, family, and local culture. Free. **Mar. 25: Lynn Miles.** Canadian singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist who writes rootsy, emotionally intense pop-folk story songs. She sings in a voice that's been called "warm, plangent, and edgy in a very human way," and her best songs are known for their incisive poetry and emotional power. Opening act is **Drew Gibson,** a Washington, D.C., singer-songwriter whose music blends elements of country blues, folk, and Americana. $15. **Mar. 26: Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill.** Artful, contemplative adaptations of traditional Irish music by the duo of guitarist Cahill, a Chicago native whose parents emigrated from county Kerry, and fiddler Hayes, known for a slow, lyrical style derived from his native county Clare. The *New York Times* calls their music "a Celtic complement to Steve Reich's quartets or Miles Davis's *Sketches of Spain*." $17.50. **Mar. 27: Joe Pug.** Highly regarded young Chicago-based singer-songwriter whose music draws on a variety of influences from a young Dylan and John Prine to the late alt-country songwriter Walter Hyatt. $15. **Mar. 28: Paul Thorn.** *See review, p. 62.* Dark, bluesy, sharp-witted, pungently idiomatic original songs by this veteran Mississippi singer-songwriter, a former professional boxer and the son of a tent revival minister. *All Music Guide* writer Thom Jurek calls Thorn a "soul singer who can slip down into the murk and mess of human emotions with style and aplomb." $17.50. **Mar. 29: Bill Staines.** Veteran singer-songwriter whose restless, brooding songs have been recorded by everyone from Nanci Griffith to Tommy Makem to the late Grandpa Jones. $15. **Mar. 31: Tracy Grammer.** Acclaimed folksinger with a dark, ethereal, expressive voice who accompanies herself on violin, mandolin, and guitar. Her repertoire includes material from the recordings she made with her late duo partner Dave Carter, along with songs from her favorite songwriters in various genres. $15.



rock

Child Bite

Fresh out of control

When a guitarist hopped onstage at the Elbow Room carrying a hot-pink translucent electric guitar, I knew Child Bite was going to put on a show. My intuition wasn't wrong, but I had no idea that show would stamp such a lasting, surrealist impression.

First of all, the lead vocalist looked possessed, with bugged-out eyes and jerky spastic movements, and he sprinkled his performance with odd little hand gestures—at one point I wondered if he might be cleaning out his ears. I say "vocalist" because "singer" would be misleading. Though occasionally melodic—and composed, I'm pretty sure, of words—the sound coming out of his mouth is something beyond singing: not growling and screaming, but insistent, high-pitched, not-quite-squeals.

The chaotic vocals were balanced by unconventional hooks, most often from the guitar and brass. Saxophonist Christian Doble utterly reclaims this instrument for the hardcore side of cool. His fast, loud, in-your-face, rhythmic playing bears absolutely no relation to smooth jazz (and will never be heard over a candlelit dinner).

The rest of the band's sound equally defies categorization. These musicians press violently against the boundaries of any genre one might use to describe them, although if Deerhoof and Wolf Parade had an angry baby, it might sound like Child Bite. They have a postpunk affinity for marginal electronic instruments like theremins and joysticks, but the innovation and sophistication of their most recent album, *Fantastic Gusts of Blood,* veer more toward the pretensions of art-rock.

The theme of the night, like the name of their album, seemed to be tongue-in-cheek violence and bizarre imagery. At one point, a dude from the audience hopped onstage with a giant teddy bear and began dry-humping its fluffy little brains out. The band didn't miss a beat: one member joined in the mock gang bang, and the others kept on rolling as if nothing had happened. Meanwhile, girls in Bermuda shorts and Empire-waisted minidresses danced as if they were watching *American Bandstand* circa 1965. I was twice hit by tambourines the guitarist threw into the crowd. (I never imagined the soft jingle of tambourines would rise above the din, but ten or fifteen of them in the audience made a surprising—and pleasant—contribution.)

Supposedly it was someone's birthday and, therefore, cause for extra revelry, but I suspect shenanigans are a common occurrence at Child Bite shows. Regardless, these guys—and everyone else in the bar—were having a really good time. Though part of this spectacle was most definitely rehearsed (after all, these dudes weren't improvising), spontaneity reverberated as loudly as the finger-tingling noise coming from the amps. The ambience, like the music, marked a refreshing departure from the usual indie-rock show.

Child Bite headlines a show at the Elbow Room on Wednesday, March 11, and opens a show at the Blind Pig on Saturday, March 14.

—Katie Whitney

The B-Side

310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Mar. 7: Our False Hopes, Saturday Night Shake Down, and Facing Resistance.** Pop-punk triple bill. **Mar. 28: Dune Buggy Attack Battalion.** Local alt-country band that takes its cues from singer-songwriter–based psychedelic rock by the likes of the Byrds and the 13th Floor Elevators. Opening act is **Old Empire,** a Detroit rock band. A benefit for WCBN-FM.

The Black Pearl

302 S. Main **222–0400**

This seafood and martini bar features live music Mon. & Wed., 6:30–9:30 p.m., & DJ Sun., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Mar. 2: Jody Raffoul.** Detroit pop-rock singer-songwriter who's been described as a hybrid mix of Bono and Bruce Springsteen. **Mar. 4: Charlie Lambrick.** Detroit blues-rock singer-guitarist. **Mar. 9: Jody Raffoul.** See above. **Mar. 11: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Mar. 16: Luke Winslow-King Trio.** See Cavern Club. **Mar. 18: Chris Genteel & Gregg Leonard.** Rock and soul covers and originals by this local duo. **Mar. 23: Jody Raffoul.** See above. **Mar. 25: Beth Stalker & Jim Rawlings.** An eclectic mix of styles from blues, R&B, and jazz to rock and country by the Detroit-area duo of Detroit Music Award–winning singer-songwriter Stalker and songwriter-guitarist Rawlings. **Mar. 30: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke

on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. **Every Tues.: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands each week. **Mar. 4: Illlitirit.** Milan drum 'n' bass hip-hop trio. Opening TBA. **Mar. 5: Ben Daniels Band.** See Club Above. Opening acts are **Factory** (see Club Above) and **Buffalo Kids** (see Club Above). **Mar. 6: Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Mar. 7: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **Mar. 11: Cesspool.** Local experimental pop band. Opening acts TBA. **Mar. 12: Matt Jones.** Local pop-folk singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Hana Malhas,** a local singer-songwriter, originally from Jordan, who writes intimate, thoughtful songs and accompanies herself on piano, guitar, and occasionally violin, and another band TBA. **Mar. 13: Nomo.** Local 9-piece ensemble that plays a mix of Afrobeat with Sun Ra– and Coltrane-influenced jazz. The band recently released its Ubiquity Records debut, *New Tones*. Opening act is **The Chap,** a London, England, experimental rock quartet. Advance tickets: $10. **Mar. 14: Handsome Furs.** The husband-and-wife team of guitarist Dan Boeckner and Alexei Perry, who plays synthesizer and drum machine, is an indie-rock duo from Montreal whose music sports a droning undertow that's both edgy and haunting. Opening act is **Silverghost,** a Detroit-area pop-rock band, and **Child Bite** (see Elbow Room). $10. **Mar. 18: Outlaw Order.** Grand Rapids metal band. Opening act is **If He Dies, He Dies,** also a Grand Rapids metal band, and 2 other bands TBA. **Mar. 19: One Be Lo.** Local hip-hop MC, also known as One Man Army. Opening act is **Black Milk,** a Detroit hip-hop MC. **Mar. 20: Mustard Plug.** High-energy, theatrical postpunk ska by this popular band from Grand Rapids. Opening act is **Deals Gone Bad,** a soul-inflected ska-reggae band from Chicago. $10 ($12 at the door). **Mar. 21: Chris Bathgate.** Local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods. Opening acts are **Frontier Ruckus,** an experimental bluegrass sextet, and **Charlene Kaye,** a local indie pop-folk singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. **Mar. 25: Counter Cosby.** Local prog-rock metal band with a wayward sense of humor. Opening acts are the local crunk-metal trio **Texas Prison Rodeo,** the Lansing experimental progressive rock band **Dr. Device,** and the local breakcore punk band **Selector Catalogue. Mar. 26: Ra Ra Riot.** Classically-inflected pop-rock quintet from Syracuse. Opening acts are **Passion Pit,** a pop-soul quintet from Cambridge, Massachusetts, and **Cut Off Your Hands,** a New Zealand pop-punk band. Advance tickets: $10 ($12 at the door). **Mar. 27: Satin Peaches.** Commerce, Michigan, rock 'n' roll quartet. Opening acts are **Starling Electric,** a local retro-psychedelic orchestral pop quartet led by singer-songwriter Caleb Dillon, along with **Mick Bassett & the Marthas** (see Elbow Room) and the keyboard-driven minimalist pop trio **Lightning Love. Mar. 28: The Blue Rubys.** Classy local almost-all-female country-rock quintet. Opening act is **Dirt Road Logic,** a local 70s-style rock 'n' roll band fronted by singer-guitarist Eric Kelly.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the **Millennium Club,** a street-level club at the same address, features DJs, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. on most Fri. & Sat. and **The Circus,** a bar on the floor above the Millennium Club, hosts the Wed. Bluegrass Night. Cover (Cavern Club only), Dancing (Cavern & Millennium clubs only). Age 21 & older admitted. **Mar. 4: The Henhouse Prowlers.** Traditional bluegrass by this Chicago band. **Mar. 11: The Goldmine Pickers.** Acoustic string quartet from Goshen, Indiana, known for its 3-part vocal harmonies and its inventive blend of bluegrass, jazz, and Celtic influences. **Mar. 14: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. **Mar. 18: Luke Winslow-King Trio.** New Orleans–bred singer-songwriter and guitarist who currently lives in Cadillac. **Mar. 25: Winter/ Sessions.** Progressive bluegrass with a string Americana flavor by this Michigan quartet. **Mar. 28: Killer Flamingos.** See above.

Club Above

215 N. Main **663–7758**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Sat. & Sun, 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m. Also, DJs on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sun. and karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & over only unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: "Mexican Night."** With live Mexican bands TBA. Hosted by DJ Miguel. **Mar. 6** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a 4-song mini disk, *Clean House,* an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1967 protest classic "For What It's Worth," and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **Mar. 7: Ben Daniels Band.** Rootsy acoustic folk-rock trio from Chelsea led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Daniels. Opening acts are **Factory,** a Detroit rock band fronted by vocalist Sahra Braunlich, and **Buffalo Kids,** an Ypsilanti folk-rock band. **Mar. 13** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Khalid Hanifi.** Beatlesque postpunk powerpop by a quintet led by veteran local singer-songwriter Hanifi and featuring guitar wiz George Bedard. **Mar. 14: The Dastardlies.** Punk-ska band from British Columbia. Opening acts are **Kronic Vibes,** an Adrian jam band, and **The Living Daylights. Mar. 20** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys.** Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **Mar. 21: One Love Reggae Band.** Detroit reggae band. Opening act is **King Isaac,** a reggae singer from Zimbabwe who teaches ethnomusicology at MSU. **Mar. 27** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Mar. 28: "African Explosion."** Headliner is **Bichini Bia Congo,** an Ann Arbor–based Congolese dance and drumming troupe led by U-M dance lecturer Biza Sompa, a former choreographer for the Congolese National Dance Company and the Paris-based Ballet Theater Lemba. Opening acts TBA.

Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw **327–6914**

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment Fri., 8–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Mar. 7: Miss America the Musical.** Avant-garde noise band. 7–10 p.m.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.), Thurs. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), & occasional other nights, and a DJ on Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Thurs.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Every Fri: DJ Big Daddie. Mar. 7: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by Jerry Sprague's 2 sons. **Mar. 14: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Mar. 17:** Traditional Irish music by bands TBA. **Mar. 21: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **Mar. 28: The Kreellers.** Detroit trio that plays traditional Irish music with rock energy and a punk edge.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **Mar. 6: John Natiw.** Americana singer-songwriter from Canton. **Mar. 7: Billy King.** Country-flavored pop-folk by this local singer-songwriter and guitarist. **Mar. 13: Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies.** Local roots-rock quartet led by former Starlight Drifters singer-guitarist Mack whose repertoire includes originals and rockabilly, early rock 'n' roll, western swing, and hillbilly bop covers. **Mar. 14:** TBA. **Mar. 20: Team Love.** Local trio led by singer-songwriter and bassist Tim Berla that plays originals and covers in an eclectic mix of styles, from jazz, swing, and Latin to country. With clarinetist and percussionist Charles Dayringer and guitarist Kip Godwin. **Mar. 21: : Meeta Banerjee & John Churchville.** Classical Indian music by the local duo of sitarist Banerjee and tabla player Churchville. **Mar. 27: Michael Beauchamp.** This local



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folk-style acoustic postpunk singer-songwriter with a strong, mournful voice is joined by several friends to perform songs from his recent debut CD, *My Northern Voices*. **Mar. 28:** TBA.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate basement bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Mar. 29: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6:30–9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features live music Thurs. & occasional other nights, 9–11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Mar. 7: City Center.** New York City–based experimental pop-rock jam duo of Saturday Looks Good to Me frontman Fred Thomas and Ryan Howard. Opening acts are Ypsilanti singer-songwriter **Patrick Elkins,** the Windsor pop trio **Racecar,** and the local experimental pop-jazz sextet **Halolos. Mar. 14: "Bare Wire Technologies Showcase."** An evening of experimental music by artists on the Bare Wire Technologies label. 8–11 p.m. **Mar. 21**: TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover ($5 suggested donation), dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Mar. 3: "Tiki Tuesday."** The Elbow Room Tiki Tuesday band plays surf music and various exotica. Also, performance by the belly dancer **Aurora** and magician **Scarboni. Mar. 4: Father Time.** Experimental indie rock by this East Lansing quintet. Opening acts are **Jameson Blade,** a pop-folk singer-songwriter from Clarkston, and **Kinetic Stereokids,** an experimental Flint space-pop band. **Mar. 6: Boywife.** Punk-rock band from Ypsilanti whose music draws on Chinese pop, Japanese classical music, and Mexican regional music. Opening acts are **The 77s,** an Ypsilanti band that plays loud, raucous, melodic, bluesy, surf-guitar rockabilly, and **Burning Cacti,** an experimental psychedelic pop band from Canton. **Mar. 7: The Johnny Timbers.** Experimental garage band from Grosse Ile. Opening acts are **Kyoto Cut Out,** a local punk band, and **Big Mess,** a Detroit rock band. **Mar. 10: "Direct Hits Mod Club."** DJ collective that plays vintage British pop and soul. **Mar. 11: Child Bite.** *See review, p. 66.* Ferndale postpunk art-rock band. Opening acts are **DD/MM/YYYY,** a Toronto experimental art-rock band, and **Lay of the Cid,** a Grand Rapids postpunk rock trio. **Mar. 13: Mick Bassett & the Marthas.** Detroit garage-rock band led by singer-songwriter Bassett. Opening acts are the Lansing alternative rock band **The Darts,** the local neopsychedelic ambient rock quartet **Farewell Republic,** and the local electro-folk-pop band **Wild Years. Mar. 14: Your Best Friend.** Saginaw rock quartet. Opening acts are **Two Roads to Mexico,** a melodic Ypsilanti emocore band, and **The Cameo In,** a Southern California pop-punk quartet. **Mar. 17: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **Mar. 18: Michael Bermudez.** Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist. Opening acts are **Nick Beilfuss,** a pop-folk singer-songwriter from Brighton, and **Alexander Silver,** a local pop-folk singer-songwriter and guitarist. **Mar. 20: Papadosio.** Progressive electronica jam band from Athens, Ohio. Opening acts are **0-Live,** a side project of the local jazz-rock band the Macpodz, and **Inkface & the Digital Dream,** an Ypsilanti electronica-dub trio. **Mar. 21:** TBA. **Mar. 27: Ganon.** Opening acts are the Louisiana noise-metal trio **Devil and the Sea,** the local metal-hardcore band **Catalept,** and **A Working Model,** a local progressive rock quartet whose influences range from King Crimson to Tool. **Mar. 28: The High Strung.** Brooklyn, Michigan, trio that plays dark, crafty pop with psychedelic overtones. Opening acts are **The Hat Madder,** a Lansing garage band, and **Jared Saltiel & the Dirty Birds.** Local folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter Saltiel. **Mar. 29: "Sunday Respite."** DJs Damon P and Brad Hicks play ambient, psychedelic, and shoegazer music.

The Firefly Club

637 S. Main **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club, named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press*. Live jazz Mon., 8 p.m.–midnight; occasional Tues., 8–10 p.m.; occasional Wed., times TBA; Thurs., 8–11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; and Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., 4–7 p.m., and Fri. & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. Followed at 11 p.m. by a **jazz jam session. Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band led by drummer Pete Siers that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). 8–11 p.m. **Mar. 6:** TBA. **Mar. 7: Straight-Ahead.** Veteran Detroit all-female jazz ensemble. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Mar. 10: First Flight.** New local jazz-funk band led by bassist Eileen Bristol. **Mar. 13: Grazyna Auguscik.** This widely heralded Polish-born jazz singer-composer from Chicago who sings in an evocative, satiny alto has won acclaim for her long-lined lyrical phrasing, rhythmic authority, muscular arrangements, and precise, jubilant scatting. "Auguscik is a jazz rarity—a vocalist who, by dint of temperament and training, refuses to rely on mere sentimentality," says *Playboy* jazz critic Neil Tesser. She is backed tonight by Eastern Blok, a nationally acclaimed Chicago-based Balkan fusion quartet led by guitar virtuoso Goran Ivanovic. **Mar. 14:** TBA. **Mar. 15: Ingrid Jensen.** Acclaimed young hard-bop jazz trumpeter, a Vancouver native known for her rich, resonant tone and fiery attack. She is backed by the local **Ellen Rowe Trio.** 1 p.m. **Mar. 18: Out of the Blue.** Yale a cappella group. Advance tickets: $10 ($15 at the door). 8 p.m. **Mar. 20:** Private party. **Mar. 21: Rebecca Kilgore.** Veteran jazz singer from Portland widely recognized as one of the finest interpreters of vocal jazz of the 1930s and 1940s. "Becky sings with a beautiful clear sound, a great sense of time and swing, and a heartfelt unpretentiousness," says composer Dave Frishberg. With guitarist **Eddie Erickson** and local bassist **Paul Keller.** Noon & 9 p.m. **Mar. 22: Sergio Monroy.** This Spanish flamenco jazz guitarist is accompanied by flamenco singer-dancer **Graciela Perrone.** 1 p.m. **Mar. 25: Caleb Curtis Quintet.** Jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Curtis, a Community High grad who is currently an MSU music student. 8 p.m. **Mar. 27: "Girls Night In."** Open mike for female jazz singers. **Mar. 28: "Susan's Big Drag (Show)."** With several top area drag performers. Followed by dancing to a DJ. **Mar. 29: James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band.** Nationally acclaimed early jazz octet led by U-M piano professor Dapogny. 1 p.m.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron **752–5740**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live music Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. Cover Thurs.–Sat. only, no dancing. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi Band.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Mar. 6** (5–8 p.m.)**: "5:01 Jazz Series."** With **Dobbins, Weed, & Krahnke,** a local jazz ensemble featuring drummer Sean Dobbins, pianist Tad Weed, and bassist Kurt Krahnke. **Mar. 6: Dave Sharp Quartet.** Straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **Mar. 7: Grievous Angel.** Detroit-area country-rock band that covers everyone from Hank Williams to the Grateful Dead and Metallica. **Mar. 13: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Mar. 14: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **Mar. 20: The Alligators.** See Guy Hollerin's. **Mar. 21: Lester Blues.** See above. **Mar. 27: Nick Strange Band.** Popular local rock, blues, & reggae dance band led by singer-guitarist Strange and featuring vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer. **Mar. 28: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Mar. 6: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs and is working on an all-instrumental CD that includes "Swing Minor 65," Bedard's surf-music adaptation of a Django Reinhardt tune. **Mar. 7: Bluescasters.** Veteran local blues and blues-rock quartet. **Mar. 13: The Alligators.** R&B and blues band from Detroit. **Mar. 14: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James–style vocalist. **Mar. 20: Cee Cee Collins.** Veteran Detroit blueswoman who is backed by **R.J.'s Rhythm Rockets,** a Detroit blues band led by drummer R. J. Spangler. **Mar. 21: The Saints.** Detroit pop-rock band that specializes in classic Motown. **Mar. 27: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. **Mar. 28: Jimmy McCarty & Mystery Train.** Popular rockabilly and roots-rock band led by veteran Detroit guitarist McCarty.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo pianists Tues.–Sun., 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Mar. 3–5: Justine Blazer.** Acoustic duo led by this Detroit country-rock singer-songwriter. **Mar. 6 & 7: Remedy.** Detroit dance band. **Mar. 10–12: John Theaker.** Windsor R&B band. **Mar. 13: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s and 80s classic rock by this very popular Detroit band. **Mar. 14: X-Factor.** Detroit 70s & 80s rock 'n' roll cover band. **Mar. 17–19: Identical Strangers.** Classic rock by the Windsor duo of vocalist Danielle Samson and guitarist Scott Giles. **Mar. 20 & 21: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **Mar. 24–26: Dave Hamilton Band.** Pop dance band led by saxophonist Hamilton. **Mar. 27 & 28: Ultraviolet.** Detroit band that plays 70s & 80s rock hits. **Mar. 31: Slice.** East Lansing dance band.

The Halfass

Church St. entrance to East Quad **764–8558**

Informal student-dominated cafe, also known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Mar. 6: Prussia.** Detroit pop-soul trio. Opening arts are **Ohtis,** a Bloomington, Illinois, folk-rock band, and **Tokyo Sexwhale,** an Ottawa punk-metal quartet. **Mar. 21: Sycamore Smith.** Acoustic punk-folk singer-songwriter from Marquette. Opening acts are **Breathe Owl Breathe,** the local duo of guitarist and banjoist Micah Middaugh and cellist Andrea Moreno-Beals whose songs are atmospheric, intricately textured instrumental and vocal landscapes, and **Laurel Premo,** a U-M student singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose songs draw on Celtic, Appalachian, Cajun, Scandinavian, and bluegrass influences.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. **752–5740**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Mon. Cover, dancing.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music Thurs., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, DJs on Fri. & Sat. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m., and live broadcast of the 89X *Homeboy Show* with live music, Sun. (beginning Mar. 15), 8 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Mar. 15: The Dirty Americans.** Detroit band whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. Opening acts are **Lies Unknown,** a Clinton Township pop-punk quartet, and **Crutch to Crown,** an Ypsilanti rock trio. **Mar. 22:** The Muggs. Downriver band that plays straight-ahead rock 'n' roll. Opening acts are **The Disregarded,** a self-styled "dirt-hop" quartet from Oakville whose music blends American roots music with urban rap and gospel-tinged choruses, and **Monolette,** a Detroit Latin-rock band. **Mar. 29: Twistin' Tarantulas.** Very popular Detroit rockabilly band. Opening acts are **Horse Cave Trio,** a local group led by veteran singer-bassist Ron DeVore that plays blues-fueled rockabilly, and **Gorevette,** a Detroit garage pop quartet fronted by Nikki Corvette and Amy Gore of the Gore Gore Girls.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Mar. 1: Randy Baker & Will Stewart.** Duo of singer-guitarists from the local garage dance band **Ypsitucky Colonels. Mar. 8: Jack Spack Jr. and Annie Capps.** Double bill. Spack is an acoustic singer-songwriter from Ypsilanti who writes heartfelt, charmingly melodic songs about the ups & downs of everyday life. Capps is a local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes thoughtful, distinctively personal, warmly exuberant folk-rock songs that are both musically sophisticated and down-home. She is accompanied by her husband, guitarist Rod Capps. **Mar. 15: Mike Waite.** UP singer-songwriter who writes finely crafted songs about love, friendship, bad habits, and the good life. **Mar. 22: Chris Buhalis.** This popular local singer-songwriter sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country songs about ordinary American life. He is accompanied by guitarists Jason Dennie and Dave Keeney. **Mar. 29: Dan Mulholland.** Veteran local rocker, the former leader of the Watusis and several other great local rock 'n' roll bands. He is accompanied by guitarist Brian Delaney.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues., 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover by donation, no dancing. **Mar. 3: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Mar. 10: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Mar. 24: "Ukulele Jam."** Musicians of all ability levels invited.

The Quarter Bistro

300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs., 6–9 p.m., and Sat., 7–10 p.m. Also, a DJ on Fri., 6–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sat.: Mike Moore.** Jazz guitarist. **Every Thurs.: Steven Springer.** Roots-rock, reggae, dancehall, and calypso by this former Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band singer-guitarist, winner of 4 consecutive Detroit Music Awards for Best Guitar Player. Some weeks, Springer is joined or replaced by jazz pianist **John Hobart.**

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Tues. & Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with a set by a live band on Fri., 10–11:30 p.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **482–5320**

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Mon., Tues., Fri., & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** Hosted by The Martindales singer-guitarist Brian Brickley. **Every Tues.: The Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of the nationally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show*, plays what Thayrone calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing." **Every Fri.: John Latini & Friends.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, who is joined by different guest musicians TBA each week. **Every Sat.:** TBA. ■

Classifieds & Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Bright, slim, caring **SWPF** ISO true gentleman for friendship, maybe more. RSVP soon. 5786✍

Fit, fashionable blond, 52, NS, seeks confident, funny guy for political yapping, film watching, forest walks. 5785✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

SWM, 59, gray teddy bear, seeks a honey for chess, jazz, BBQs, and more. 5775✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. 5689✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

Women Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box

Men Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

General Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
You don't have to ski to be a member! The AASC is a "4 season" social and sports club for singles & couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 400 members! Upcoming events: **3/6 Night Out on the Town; 3/12 General Meeting/St. Patrick's Dance at Cobblestone Farm; 3/13 Night Out on the Town; 3/21 Night Out on the Town; 3/26 Annual Business Meeting/Elections/Dance at Cobblestone Farm; 3/27 Informal Euchre League; and 3/28 Night Out on the Town. CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING SPRING SPORTS.** For more info, including sign-up procedures, consult the Club Hotline at (734) 786–2237 or go to www.a2skiclub.org.

It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail:

Letter responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Ann Arbor Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to: Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Place Your Personals Ad Today!

- **Place your personals ad through www.arborlist.com, follow the directions to place your ad in print in the Observer, receive the first 3 lines of your personals ad for FREE.**

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Please call with any questions or comments: (734) 769–3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Employment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

Entertainment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

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Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

MINIATURE DOLLHOUSE CLUB
Needs new members. (734) 827–1363.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

Climate Control Indoor Storage
490 S. Maple, Ann Arbor. Next to Kroger.
662–5262. www.ccindoorstorage.com.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 88? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, March 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

PIANO LESSONS, AGE 5 & UP
Prof. piano teacher, U-M Music School grad. Member of Piano Teachers Guild. Convenient west-side location. Mary Ann McCulloch, (734) 604–0942. Email mcpianolady@aol.com.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD for referrals to qualified professional piano teachers. All levels and ages, 665–5346. aaaptg.googlepages.com.

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Art, Creative Writing, & More
New classes in Right Brain Drawing, colored pencil drawing, creating writing, Mandala drawing, inner growth & psychic development begin in April at the Center for Creative Pursuits in Ann Arbor's Dakota Building. For complete class & workshop descriptions go to www.fallingwater.com. Click: The Center. To be added to mailing list call Kay Gould-Caskey at (734) 747–9810.

Advanced Preschooler?
Only Concord specializes. 662–6002.

Intro. Meditation Course: 5 Thurs. eves. 6:30–8:30, starts Mar. 5. $160. **Overnight Intro. Meditation Course:** 7 p.m., Fri., Mar. 9 to noon Sat., Mar. 10. $160. **Public Service Sundays:** 9:30 a.m. or 4 p.m. Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard, (734) 761–6520. annarbor@zenbuddhisttemple.org

Private Yoga Therapy & Workshops
YogaAndMeditation.com (734) 665–7801

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

SHOSHANA TECH SUPPORT
Computer Setup & Support, Home & Small Business. Call Tom, (734) 662–3537.

★ Construction Debris—Recycled ★
Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
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Business Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

Health

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

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Individuals & Couples
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Personal Care and Services Coordinator for Seniors. 40 years in services, housing, and home care for seniors. Will coordinate services for in-home care, or assist a move into a facility. Can advise about financial and program eligibility. 476–6555.

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

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Photography

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

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Volunteers Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

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The **Classifieds deadline** for the April issue is March 10.

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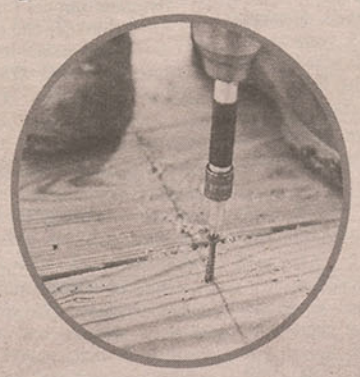
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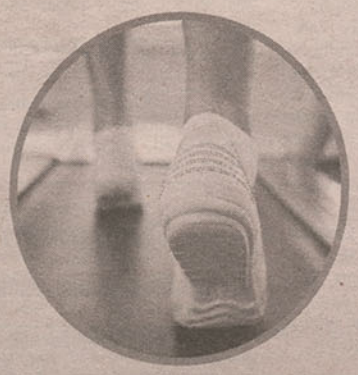
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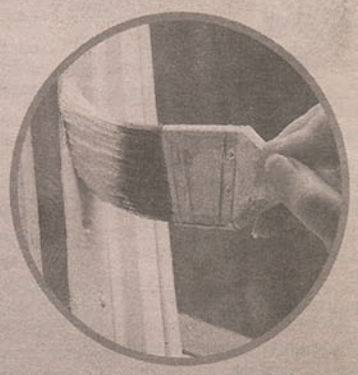


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The historic Kaiser Mansion, built for a captain of industry in the Village of Barton Hills, has all of the elegance of 1922 with true-to-era renovations that are expected in a 5-star residence. An integral part of its beauty is the impressive view of Barton Pond. $2,950,000.

Photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walk-out basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



DIXBORO FARMS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR – Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



GLENNBOROUGH – This stately, custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home rests on one of the finest lots in the neighborhood. Home has incredible presence set far back from the street with extensive landscaping, flowing stream, and pond frontage. Interior features wonderful contemporary flair with two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite counters, first-floor master suite with sitting room, and finished walk-out basement. $760,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $519,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



LAKE FOREST - Custom built 5-bedrooms, 4 ½-bath home on a gorgeous lot backing to woods in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Great lot features extensive landscaping, large back yard, and extreme privacy. The interior is just perfect highlighted by the two story great room, oversized kitchen, first floor master suite, and finished basement. Great Home! $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STRAWBERRY LAKE – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on one of the finest lake front settings you will find anywhere. Enjoy gorgeous bluff top views from the large deck and year-round sun room of one of the area's best all-sports lakes. Home features substantial updates including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, all new baths with granite, fresh paint, and finished walkout basement. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



JACKSON – incredible 4-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built home in the Sanctuary at Brills Lake, one of Jackson's most desired subs. This 2004 Parade of Homes entry is loaded with custom features and amenities including 2-story family room with wall of windows, kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counters, den, luxury master suite, and gorgeous wooded lot. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BRASS CREEK – This custom-built home rests on one of the most beautiful sites you will find. Gorgeous acre lot with extensive landscaping, treed backyard, deck, and patio. Interior is sharp with two-story great room, den, open kitchen with granite island, first-floor master suite, and finished walk-out basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE - Perfect 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of the area's most desired subs. This home is highlighted by an extensive list of upgrades and amenities. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen with granite island, spacious first-floor master suite, and professionally finished lower level. $374,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



YORK PLACE – This gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial rests on a peaceful one acre cul-de-sac lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home has all the features you've been hoping for including two-story great room, open kitchen, first-floor den, luxury master suite, 3-car garage, and finished basement. Great home. $369,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100**



DEXTER – Perfect 5-bedroom, 2 ½-bath two-story home on a peaceful acre lot in Stoneyfield Acres. Great setting with extensive landscaping, privacy, and paver patio. The interior of this home sparkles featuring 9' first-floor ceilings, spacious kitchen, great room with fireplace, formal dining room, large master suite, and bonus room. You will love it. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



WILDWOOD – This perfectly maintained and upgraded 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in one of Saline's most desired subs has all the features you've been hoping for. Gorgeous lot backing to woods includes extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. The interior is perfect featuring open kitchen with granite, large family room, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



MANCHESTER – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on almost 11 pastoral acres is close to perfect. Custom-built by Don Gaddes, this home was built with extreme attention to energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Wonderful home with large great room, maple kitchen, nice master suite, and mostly finished basement with view out windows. $275,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR DUPLEX – Great west side duplex walking distance to Allmendinger Park, U of M Stadium, and downtown. The property is currently owner occupied. One bedroom apartment pays $600/mo. Classic raised ranch plan with lots of original character, large backyard, and 2-car attached garage. $267,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR – Hard to find 2-bedroom, 2-bath handyman special on a wooded 1.5 acre lot on Huron River Dr. Great opportunity for fix up, major addition, or tear down of this ranch style home on Ann Arbor's west side. Great location just minutes to downtown and U of M. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS - Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a peaceful lot in Clubview subdivision. This home is just perfect featuring cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, spacious family room, oversized master suite with vaulted ceiling and attached bath, and finished basement. All hardwood floors, large backyard, and screened porch. $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BURNS PARK – Super charming 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Great price for this move-in condition home on a quiet tree lined street. Interior features extensive hardwood floors, custom décor, large living room with fireplace, and formal dining. Spacious backyard. $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Your own country oasis awaits you at this move-in condition 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home. Enjoy the gorgeous park-like setting just minutes from everything. This home is perfect and features living room with vaulted ceiling, family room with fireplace, and nice master suite. Gorgeous!! $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



WILDWOOD COMMONS - This perfect, move-in condition 2-bedroom, 2-bath detached condo rests well within the community. You will love the spacious, open floor plan and very tasteful décor. Great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open kitchen with bar seating, large master suite, and guest room/den. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



HAISLEY ELEMENTARY – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath cape on a very low traffic, quiet street. Walking distance to schools, parks, and downtown. This home is in great shape with current décor, hardwood floors, and cove ceilings. Spacious master suite with ample closets, kitchen with ceramic tile floor, and large back yard. $179,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE- Rare find. Country ranch on a peaceful acre lot on the north side of Saline, just minutes to I-94. Solid brick ranch in need of some cosmetic updates. Great starter home includes large backyard, 2 car garage, living room, den, and full basement. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home walking distance to UM hospital, lower town, and downtown Ann Arbor. This home is in perfect move-in condition and features large backyard, one car garage, and neutral décor throughout. $159,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for over 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers.

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COLLEGE HEIGHTS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home built in 2006 walking distance to UM Central Campus and UM hospitals. Gorgeous home featuring custom kitchen with upgraded stainless steel appliances and granite, family room with built-ins, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR – This gracious 5-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built colonial rests on a peaceful 2.2 acre setting just minutes from town. Incredible features include two-story foyer and family room, custom kitchen with granite counter tops, oversized master suite with dream closet, and finished basement. You will love it! $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING – BURNS PARK – This is not your typical Burns Park home. Gracious 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath custom-built contemporary overlooking the park!! You will be amazed at the quality features and incredible design of this true one-of-a-kind home. Custom kitchen, sun room, and den all have views of the park. Luxury master suite, spacious bedrooms, and finishable third floor. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE – Incredible custom-built home on a gorgeous 10-acre estate parcel just minutes from town. The land is absolutely beautiful with ample trees, river frontage, and upgraded out building. Interior features include two-story great room, custom kitchen with granite counters and professional grade appliances, all hardwood floors, and luxury master suite. $569,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



PINCKNEY – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – This 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home rests in your own private wooded oasis. Incredible home inside and out including 8-car garage space in two outbuildings, one with finished office space. The interior of this home has been completely renovated with all first class amenities. Maple kitchen with granite counter tops, new baths, cherry floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, and luxury master suite. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



LOHR LAKE VILLAGE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 2-full and 2-half bath home overlooking the ponds and open space in one of Saline School's most desired subs. The lot is gorgeous with extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. Completely updated interior featuring extensive hardwood floor, granite on all counters, large kitchen, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



LAUREL GARDENS – Highly desired 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo in NE Ann Arbor's most desired condo complex. Great location and setting deep within the neighborhood backing to trees and natural area. Interior features formal living and dining, flex use den/tv room, and master suite with two walk-ins and luxury bath. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CENTENNIAL FARMS – This 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial is just perfect. Hard to find home in one of Saline School's most desired subs. Great lot located deep in the neighborhood is walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. Gorgeous interior features maple kitchen with oak hardwood floor, open family room, first-floor den, luxurious master suite, and large bedrooms. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 3-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will find anywhere. Incredible backyard view with fully developed pond including large deck, extensive patios, and gorgeous landscaping. The interior is sharp including great room with vaulted ceiling and two-story fireplace, spacious kitchen with Corian counters, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $299,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING – HAWTHORNE RIDGE – This 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial at the end of a cul-de-sac is just perfect. Great lot with large backyard, extensive landscaping, and 2-tier deck. Interior features all Brazilian cherry hardwood floors on main level, open kitchen to family room with vaulted ceiling, large living room and formal dining room, spacious master suite, and finished basement. This is a great home. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE – This 2-bedroom, 2-bath detached condo features one of the best golf course views you'll find. Incredible tee-to-green view of the #8 hole at Stonebridge. The interior of this unit has been completely redone. Features include maple kitchen cabinets with granite counter tops, Brazilian cherry floors, and stainless steel appliances, new master bath, and partially finished basement. $259,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo in Stonebridge overlooking the #8 fairway. This unit is gorgeous featuring open living room with 10-ft. ceiling, sun porch overlooking the course, master suite with vaulted ceilings, and finished basement with view out windows. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



GRASS LAKE – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath former builder's model home in Sandhill Estates is loaded with quality upgrades. Great design featuring two-story foyer, open great room, large kitchen with island, first-floor master suite with sitting area, and three-car garage. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR – This is not your typical Ann Arbor ranch. Backing to Pioneer woods, this home has been completely remodeled and expanded. Perfect for a single person or a couple, this home features a huge master suite overlooking the woods with upgraded bath, the backyard is all deck with sitting areas and complete privacy, finished basement, and more. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



FORD LAKE FRONTAGE - Enjoy panoramic bluff top views of Ford Lake from this remodeled and expanded 3-bedroom colonial. Lake front living at its finest with multiple decks and patios and a gorgeous all-sports lake. Home features added family room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floor, central kitchen, spacious master bedroom, and finished basement. $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



GRASS LAKE – Wonderful 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on pastoral 6.8 acre parcel just minutes to I-94. Perfect setting with great privacy, large deck, and pole barn. Interior features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, formal dining room, large master suite with walk-in closet, and large basement. $209,999. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



MAPLEWOOD – This super sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial has been completely updated over the past three years. Perfect move-in condition home features large living room, spacious kitchen, great lot with deck, nice master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



OLD WEST SIDE – Walk to downtown Ann Arbor from this classic Old West Side 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story home. Washtenaw Diary and Jefferson Market are just blocks away as well. Great home at a great price featuring extensive hardwood floors, large living room, spacious formal dining room, updated kitchen, and good sized bedrooms. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



EBERWHITE –Rock solid 3-bedroom, 1-bath brick ranch on one of the most desired streets in town. Nicely remodeled home with newer maple kitchen, windows, and roof. Home features large living room, open floor plan, and full basement. $149,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE – Great 2-bedroom, 1 ½-bath condo in perfect move-in condition. This unit has a great set of features and amenities. The highlights include cherry kitchen, spacious living room, spacious master suite with walk-in closet, and full basement. $134,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING – YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – This 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo is one of the best values on the market today. Enjoy over 1,600 square feet of beautiful space, loaded with quality upgrades. Features include large great room, kitchen with vaulted ceiling, den, spacious master suite, crown molding, and numerous built-ins. $99,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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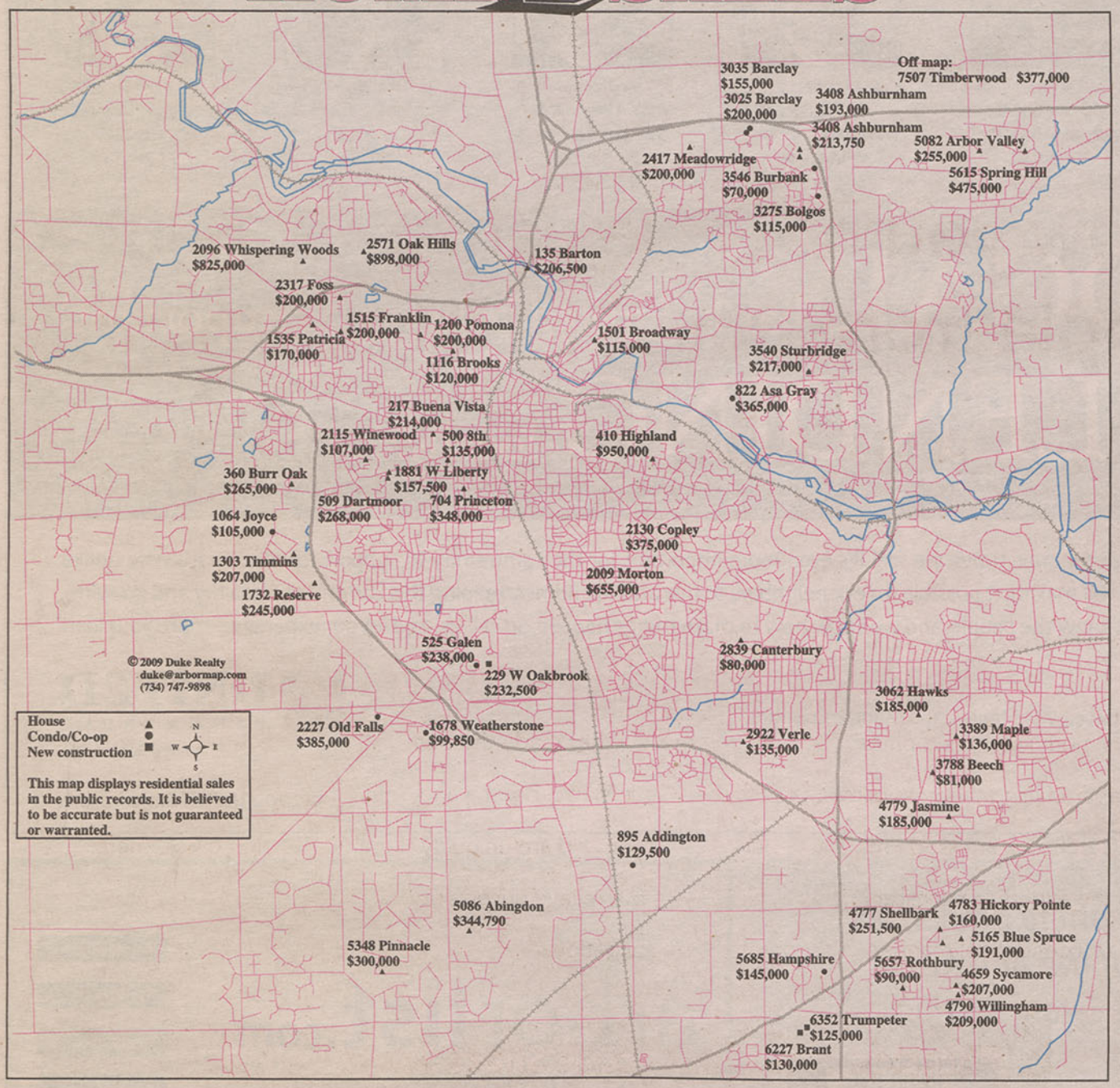
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JANUARY 2009 HOME SALES



Sales of existing condominiums, excluding co-ops, were surprisingly steady in 2008. We located 382 sales in the public records in 2008, one more than 2007's 381. Even more encouraging, the median price fell only 2 percent, from $165,000 to $162,000. Could the turmoil afflicting the local condo market finally be settling down?

Condos were getting kicked around long before the real estate crash hit single-family homes. The table at left below, based on public records, shows that condo prices in the Ann Arbor school district peaked in 2005, when the median price reached $183,000. Last year's median, $162,000, represented an 11 percent decline. While not exactly good news for owners, that's considerably better than the back-to-back 10 percent declines in the single-family median posted in 2007 and 2008 (Home Sales Map, February). And for buyers, it meant more units sold at affordable prices (see table at right below). Between 2005 and 2008, the number of condos selling for less than $150,000 jumped by 55 percent.

But has the condo market really found its bottom? Every time we've examined individual condominium neighborhoods, we found the damage was worse than the median suggested. In that, unfortunately, 2008 was little different. The right-hand table, based on sales reported by the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors Multiple Listing Service, compares the average (mean) selling prices of condos in eight neighborhoods between 2005 and 2008. Every one lost more than the median of the school district as a whole.

Why would the market's median be so much stronger than its components? One reason is that the overall figures are skewed by resales of newer, more expensive units. These high-end condos remain relatively expensive, and are lifting the median even as they sell for a loss.

—Kevin Duke

PRICE RANGE	2005	2006	2007	2008
Less than $100K	9	8	18	29
$100K-$149,999	95	105	123	132
$150K-$199,999	231	206	125	110
$200K-$249,999	97	91	64	45
$250K-$299,999	42	33	26	22
$300K-$349,999	20	23	9	12
$350K-$399,999	13	10	8	8
$400K-$499,999	9	11	4	12
$500K or more	10	5	4	12
Condos sold	526	492	381	382
Median price	$183K	$180K	$165K	$162K
Sales ($millions)	$108M	$98M	$70M	$74M

CONDO / CO-OP	SQ. FT.	2005	2008	LOSS $	LOSS %
Barclay Park 2B	1,623	$229,000	$158,000	-$71,000	-31%
Barclay Park 3B	2,008	$273,000	$226,000	-$47,000	-17%
Berkshire Creek 2B	2,172	$303,000	$262,000	-$41,000	-14%
Briarcrest 2B	983	$139,000	$89,000	-$50,000	-36%
Chapel Hill 2B	1,280	$171,000	$129,000	-$42,000	-25%
Northside Commons 2B	1,094	$167,000	$142,000	-$25,000	-15%
Turnberry Village 2B	1,123	$163,000	$127,000	-$36,000	-22%
Village Co-op 2B	1,080	$80,000	$55,000	-$25,000	-31%
Walden Hills 2B	1,173	$129,000	$71,000	-$58,000	-45%

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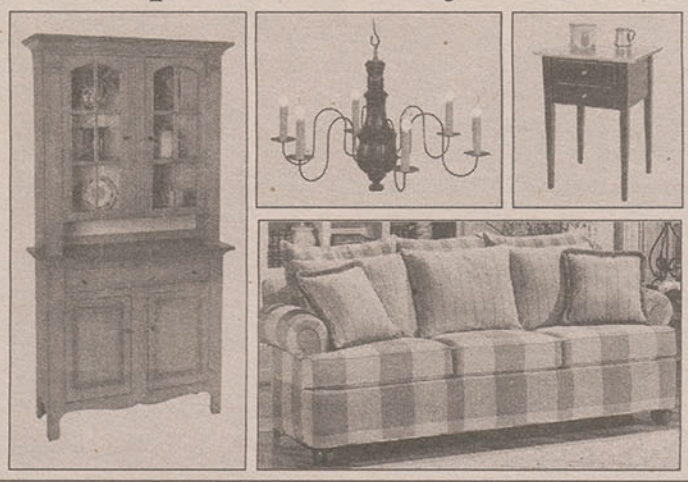


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Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

Trading places

Great Lakes Cycling moves and grows

After five years in the back of beyond at the rear of Boulevard Plaza, **Great Lakes Cycling & Fitness** is moving to a new location just down the street. "We're bursting at the seams," says Oscar Bustos, who co-owns the business with his wife, Lindsay. "I have bikes I can't even get on the floor." At 15,300 square feet, the new location gives them a lot more elbow room than their current 10,000-square-foot space—and, more important, a higher profile. "We're not very visible to the public right now," Oscar says.

They'll be gaining size and visibility by taking over the old Ace Barnes Hardware spot. (In a sort of west-side version of *Trading Places*, Ace Barnes moved to Boulevard Plaza in 2004.) The Bustoses planned to be in the new space March 1, and the stock will stay pretty much the same: bicycles, cycling gear, and home physical fitness equipment like treadmills and stationary bikes.

The interior's a different story. "We're trying to be as green as possible," says Oscar. That means, among other things, energy-efficient lighting and working with the Urban Wood Project to use reclaimed wood wherever they can. "We're also trying to invest as much money as we can in Ann Arbor itself, without taking money out of it," he says. That means using local businesses like the Hosford machine shop on Main Street: "They're making all our custom racks for our clothing."

Oscar, thirty-one and a former mechanical engineer, and Lindsay, twenty-nine and a former accountant, are passionate cyclists who thought owning a bike shop would dovetail nicely with starting a family. They bought Great Lakes Cycling from original owner Henry Bednarz in 2007, three years after he relocated to Boulevard Plaza from his original spot at Main and Madison.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Lindsay and Oscar Bustos are moving their Great Lakes Cycling & Fitness to the former Ace Hardware building on Stadium.

In a town full of bike shops, the Bustoses know their niche. "There are other shops in town that specialize in just high-end stuff," says Oscar. "We're a family shop. We think we benefit the community as a whole and not [just the serious cyclist]. That's our focus. We're really looking for the moms, dads, and kids."

Great Lakes Cycling & Fitness, 2015 West Stadium Boulevard, 668–6484. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. greatlakescycling.com.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Kris Keller, left, and Jason Bourland, right, showcase charismatic jeweler Matthew Hoffmann's designs at their Nickels Arcade shop.

Hoffmann returns

This time in semiretirement

Matthew Hoffmann presses one of his designs into the hands of a customer with such intensity that if you didn't know he was a jeweler showing his wares, you might mistake him for the kind of nineteenth-century seducer who led good girls astray. "Look at these earrings," he says, breathlessly. "Aren't they beautiful? Black opals."

Hoffmann, fifty-three, is Ann Arbor's most gossiped-about jeweler. While other custom jewelry designers also work in the rarefied world where single pieces can cost in the middle five figures, Hoffmann is notorious not only for his high-priced jewelry but also for envelope-pushing concepts and materials (one of his lines used actual insect carapaces mounted in gold). More recently, he says, "I did a whole series of jewelry based on the Iraqi War, and it all sold—shapes like shields, spears, stealth bombers."

The operatic swells and troughs of his personal life have added to the attention. He speaks candidly of his bipolar condition, and his business has been through some spectacular and well-publicized booms and busts. At one time he had stores in Chicago and New York. For the last twenty years, he operated **Matthew C. Hoffmann Jewelry Design** on Maynard. It quietly closed last July, when, just as quietly, a small shop named **Ten** opened in Nickels Arcade.

"In the early part of 2008, I became deathly ill," Hoffmann says of the change. "My chest cavity filled with fluid. I had holes drilled into me and had fluid sucked out of me with this electric machine. I was in the hospital for months." What was the underlying problem? "They're not really sure," he shrugs.

When he recovered, two of his closest friends, Kris Keller and Jason Bourland, took things into their own hands. Keller and Bourland, who had worked with him on Maynard, started Ten to showcase his work. "They said to me, 'We want you to do what you do best. We don't want you to have the pressure of the everyday business,'" Hoffmann says. "So I'm in semiretirement. All I do is design." Keller handles the sales floor and consults with clients, while Bourland executes Hoffmann's jewelry designs in a basement workshop.

"This is the first store we've ever had with big display windows," Hoffmann says. Most of his work is still custom, but he says that in his new space he's worked with a lot of students, who have been attracted by the window displays. While students don't come immediately to mind as luxury-jewelry consumers, Hoffmann says they do buy engagement rings.

"We wanted to put some of the more affordable pieces out for Valentine's Day," Kris Keller said in early February. In this world, of course, *affordable* is still a relative term: the example Keller pointed out was a $500 pair of earrings.

Ten, 10 Nickels Arcade, 665–6792. Mon.–Fri. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Closed Sun. Also by appointment with Matthew Hoffmann. tenfinejewelry.com.

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Cappuccino attack

McD's takes on Starbucks



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Toni and B. J. Rodgers's new McDonald's on Washtenaw takes on coffeehouses, with Wi-Fi and laptop-friendly electrical outlets at every table.

The new **McDonald's** that opened on Washtenaw—it replaced the Boston Market that went belly up last year—is not your mama's McDonald's, or your toddler's either. Outside, it's the familiar golden arches—but inside, the booths are upholstered in soothing moss-green-and-chestnut fabric, and soft diffused light comes from suspended globes. The TV is tuned to closed-captioned CNN, and there's not only Wi-Fi in the store but also an electrical outlet at each table—a not-so-subtle invitation to linger awhile with your laptop over one of the chain's new, much-heralded lattes or cappuccinos.

"Michigan was the first place in the country to roll out the espresso drinks," says franchise co-owner Toni Rodgers. "They cost about half what a similar drink at Starbucks costs." (A McDonald's billboard ad campaign in Seattle rubs it in with a knife-twisting one-liner: "Four bucks is dumb." Here the tone is less antagonistic: "Coffee breaks shouldn't break you. $2.29," reads the McDonald's billboard at Dexter and Maple.)

Toni and B. J. Rodgers are a handsome and energetic Obamaesque-looking couple who used to work for GM. He is a retired CFO of the GM Foundation; she worked in marketing. Toni bought a McDonald's franchise in 2004. "After the Enron scandal," says Toni, "it occurred to us that maybe it wasn't a great idea to be working for the same company." This is their fourth franchise—and, she guesses, one of about twenty McDonald's in the county. The espresso drinks are indeed, Toni says, a deliberate and aggressive challenge to the hegemony of Starbucks. "We're not only going head to head, we're winning," she says, pointing out that Starbucks has continued its course of massive layoffs and store closings.

Among their four McD's, the Rodgerses employ over 200 people. Says Toni, "There is a definite career to be had here. Half my crew are already in college. But this is also a place where you're limited only by your ability, meaning you can rise without necessarily having an education."

"And," B. J. adds, "we've got elderly people working here too. I mean people in their forties, fifties . . ." Toni shoots him a look of astonishment. "Elderly? I just turned fifty. What are you talking about?" And the interview is over.

McDonald's, 3325 Washtenaw, 975–0466. Daily twenty-four hours. mcdonalds.com.

Briefly Noted

In January Ben Falk opened **Beagle Brain** in the spot Ana Banana recently vacated in Nickels Arcade. Falk, one of those lithe, T-shirted, deceptively youthful-looking (he's thirty-seven) technogeeks, thinks of it as primarily a computer repair shop with a price scheme tailored to student needs: free estimates and up-front flat fees rather than hourly rates. Also, he and his staff of three get their hands dirty: "We do a lot of hardware repairs that most places won't do. We do soldering. A lot of places will tell you to switch out the motherboard, which is a three-hundred-dollar part and a hundred dollars labor, but to do a fix on it, you can switch out a ten-dollar part."

Marketplace Changes doesn't cover service businesses, but Beagle Brain also has a retail side: an eye-catching array of accessories, particularly laptop cases and sleeves, iPod accessories, and headphones. "They make the store look nice," says Falk. "They're colorful. If you go down to Office Max, you can't find a lot of laptop sleeves—it's all black bulky business bags." Falk has dozens of svelte, colorful computer bags, backpacks, and sleeves from the Finnish company Golla, for $15 to $40. He also stocks a minimal but well-researched selection of printers, routers, and speakers.

He claims he makes little to no profit on any of his retail business: "We compete with online. Students in particular know how to go online and order whatever they want at the cheapest price and have it delivered to their door. To be honest with you, I don't believe in electronics retail. It's not viable at this point with the Internet. So why do I believe in this little shop? Well, because it's not a store, it's a repair shop, but everything I sell in here is the good stuff, and I sell it at a competitive price."

Beagle Brain, 2 Nickels Arcade, 623–9000. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. beaglebrain.com.

A new business on Jackson Road called the **Gold Gallery** is trying to graft a jewelry store onto a gold-buying service. "We want to buy gold and sell jewelry," says jeweler Fred Monroe, who trained at Urban Jewelers and says he's "a fabricator, not a caster. I work with sheet and wire." Joanna Kokkales, who shies away from being described as an owner or partner ("I'm

the developer"), has expertise in appraisal. She explains, "We want to sell Fred's designs. We're not a pawnshop." Kokkales and Monroe have been collaborating since 1998, when they both worked at another local jeweler, Austin & Warburton.

The Gold Gallery opened in late January, and Kokkales and Monroe envision their shop as a kind of multipurposed aftermarket for gold jewelry that will support Monroe's own jewelry lines and also provide an income stream to Kokkales's favorite charity, the neonatal unit at St. Joe's, where she is on the board of directors. They lay out several scenarios that make use of the talents of either or both of them. Say, for example, you come in to sell Grandma's engagement ring: they'll pay you for the gold, but Monroe will design and make a pendant using the diamond. You'll probably still come out ahead, they say, because Monroe works not only in gold but also in less expensive metals like silver, Argentium Silver, and niobium—a reactive metal that takes on color when an electrical current is run through it.

A collection of luminous, rainbow-hued hammered-niobium earrings and necklaces was the only thing on display when we stopped by in February. "We're just going to experiment—repair and resell, or maybe add other art," says Kokkales. "I used to paint glass ornaments and clothes. We might have a corner for that. It might turn into a very eclectic little store."

The Gold Gallery, 4900 Jackson Road, 327–9900. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and by appointment. thegoldgalleryA2.com.

Red Hot Lovers closed for Christmas, and to the surprise of its East University neighbors, it never opened again. In the shadow of the new Zaragon apartment complex, the scrappy little haven for Chicago-style hot dogs looks even more funky and shacklike now than it did when Alan Cantor and Tim Blackburn opened it twenty-five years ago. The owner since 2007 has been Troy Slade, a 2003 U-M grad who lives in New York.

Though Red Hots' bedraggled look was part of its appeal, the kitchen was in dire need of renovation. Behind the scenes, Slade had been trying to negotiate a five-year lease so that he could recoup the cost of a major kitchen overhaul, but negotiations are now over. Landlord Dick Johnston, who owns the Aprill insurance agency, finally declined to renew the lease. Johnston didn't return our calls. Slade promises he'll reopen Red Hots somewhere else near campus by this fall.

Closings

The late activist attorney Art Carpenter came up with the idea of **Kitchen Port** forty years ago, when he and a bunch of his friends got tired of going to New York and Chicago to buy high-end cookware. It worked well for a long time, but on January 24, the store closed for good.

Kitchen Port opened in the basement of the triangular building at Fifth Avenue and Detroit Street. It moved across Fifth a year later to Kerrytown's second floor, where it remained until moving to Scio Township four years ago.

The move to a space on Zeeb Road across from Meijer raised some eyebrows, but company president Roberta Shrope says the new location was good for the store: "We were actually doing better out there. We knew from our mailing list that most of our customers lived on the west side of Ann Arbor."

Shrope spent thirty years with the company, the last twenty-three as president. And while Kitchen Port was a corporation with forty-three shareholders, she's always been the one with the most to lose if it ever went under. "I have been the one who has always guaranteed the line of credit, and I've done it with my house," she says. So when she went over the books for December and discovered that sales were down 29 percent from the previous year, she had to make a hard choice: "I decided that this being my sixty-fifth year of age, I no longer wanted to put my house up."

The shareholders tried to sell the business rather than just close up shop, and Shrope says they had a couple of interested parties—but when neither deal worked out, closing was the only option. "So it was a good forty-year run," she says. "We paid all the vendors, we paid everybody, and just kind of slipped into the mist."

When **Seajoys Kitchen** opened on North Main a year ago, many people saw the name and assumed it was a seafood restaurant. In fact, despite the name and the image of a ship's wheel on the sign, Seajoys was an Indian restaurant owned by Shijoy Kallungal. "Seajoy" was a pun on Kallungal's first name (pronounced "Shee-joy"), and the wheel alluded to his other business, a vacation booking service called Seajoys Cruise Club. The dissonance between what the sign said and what the menu said probably isn't the only reason Seajoys closed its doors without warning late last year, but it certainly didn't help. Repeated phone calls to Kallungal went unanswered, and the Cruise Club's phone is disconnected.

The **Jamaican Jerk Pit,** the tiny slice of the Caribbean wedged between the Bell Tower Hotel and the former Comerica Bank on Thayer, is closed, confirm owners Beth and Steve Welch, speaking from their home in Jamaica, where they own the Lost Beach Resort hotel. The Welches, who own the Jamaican Jerk Pit property as well, say it's possible they will lease the space to another Caribbean restaurant. Though they own several other properties in Ann Arbor, they now consider themselves retired.

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.

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Blue Tractor

Instant success

On a Friday night in January, the young crowd at Blue Tractor stood three deep at the bar, their puffy down coats bulking up an already beefy mob and presenting something of an obstacle to the newcomer. But on closer interaction, they turned out to be a tame crew, Midwest friendly rather than East Coast anxious. I mention this because the new Blue Tractor BBQ & Brewery on Washington is an instant success, attracting masses but not taking reservations for groups of fewer than thirteen. You should plan on spending some time at the bar if you go for dinner on a weekend.

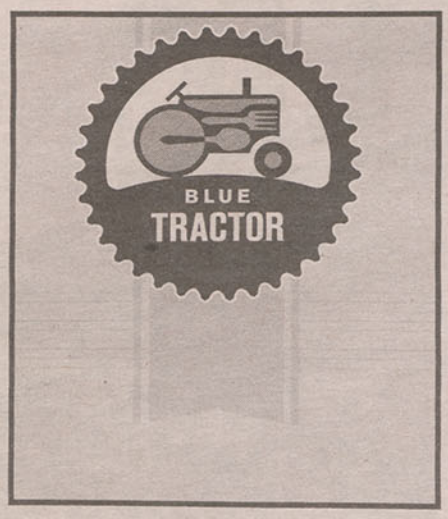
We were told to anticipate a thirty-to-forty-minute sojourn there; when our seats turned up after just fifteen minutes, we didn't know whether to credit good luck, good psychology on the hostess's part, or good karma left over from the prior tenant, Jewel Heart. Whatever the explanation, we felt fortunate and disposed to like the place.

The general ease of experience is reinforced by a comforting decor whose chief feature is rough, dark paneling recycled from old barns. The lighting is workmanlike, the ductwork exposed, and the on-site brewery on display in three giant stainless steel tanks behind the bar. Well-placed flat screens accommodate game days, but don't expect to hear the score—the noise level approximates that of a raucous family dinner with a blues band in the basement.

The bar itself has a built-in frosty cooling strip to maintain proper temperature on your brew. It's a useful novelty, so long as you don't let your mug sit too long. I was on the phone when the bartender set down my IPA, and by the time I was ready to take a sip, the filled-to-the-rim glass was stuck to the ice. I created a pond of spilled ale trying to pry it loose.

Blue Tractor owners Jon Carlson and Greg Lobdell grew up together on the Old Mission Peninsula, not far from where the young Ernest Hemingway learned to hunt and fish. I don't know why exactly, but I always slot Carlson-Lobdell restaurants into Hemingway eras. Their first local venture, Grizzly Peak, could be perched beside Walloon Lake, waiting for Nick Adams. Vinology (in which they are no longer involved) boasts a Gallic *terroir* fetish worthy of the *Moveable Feast* days. The old man might dream about heading to Cafe Habana for a drink after a long day at sea. Now Blue Tractor takes us back up north, not so much lakeside but inland, down some Emmet County back road, where tourists don't rent, so prices stay low. No single dish at Blue Tractor is more than $20, and most hover around $10.

These are simple plates and huge portions. There is more than a passing nod to the southern food canon; chef Heath Barbato spent six years in North Carolina, and frying, smoking, and barbecuing are his preferred methods of handling ingredients that are largely meaty, starchy, and spicy. For me, the kitchen staff proved their mettle early with an appetizer of onion rings that wrapped an excellent crunchy batter around a sweet toothsome fresh onion slice, a deep-fried feat pulled off with fairly-low-grease aplomb. An appetizer of warm potato chips featured mandolined spuds deep fried with a similarly perfect texture, but coated with too much of a sweet-spicy powder and accompanied by a wretched blue cheese "fondue" that tasted mainly like the starch used to thicken it. Less might be more here—I'd love to try those chips with just sea salt and freshly ground black pepper.



Blue Tractor has its own smokery—a roughly five-by-four-foot cabinet in the kitchen where the staff turn ordinary meat into a caveman's joy. Every meat we sampled from its cherry- and apple-wood-stoked confines was delicious.

Blue Tractor has its own smokery—a roughly five-by-four-foot cabinet in the kitchen where the staff turn ordinary meat into a caveman's joy. Every meat we sampled from its cherry- and apple-wood-stoked confines was delicious, starting with a messy full slab of meaty "wet" ribs slathered with classic Texas barbecue sauce. That sweet-smoky Texas style is one of the three house-made sauces served on the side with every barbecue—the other two being a vinegar-based North Carolina and a tomato-based South Carolina with mustard and molasses overtones. A mountain of pulled pork, smoked eighteen hours, came with plenty of those outside-crunchy caramelized meat bits and was dressed with South Carolina sauce. Our favorite was probably the brisket, a not-too-fatty slab of certified Angus beef sliced just right to show off the red ring beneath its sharp crust, one mark of a great smoked brisket.

Beer-can chicken was tender and particularly moist, as you'd expect from a fowl propped indecorously on a can of beer that steams up its insides as it grills, but I could have done without the flavorless pan gravy poured across the top. (I almost got the feeling the people in the kitchen were just trying to hide its barbecue-blackened skin. Wear it proudly, man.) The accompanying fresh veggies, though, were very good—crisply steamed and including nonslimy okra among the carrots and broccoli. My husband hated his side of greens—at Blue Tractor collards come in a spicy roasted tomato–smoked paprika sauce. I loved that they made him say how much more he likes the way I cook greens (I'm more of a traditionalist), but these collards do have the health advantage of being vegetarian.

The half-pound burgers are cumbersome but quite good, grilled to order and served on fresh soft buns from Avalon Bakery in Detroit. Of the various burger versions, my favorite was the "Texas," with a sharp pickle, Jack cheese, and minimalist coleslaw. I got this in trade from my companion for my original order—a "black, blue, and bacon burger"—which was loaded with too much stuff for my taste. In the end, we were both happy. Sweet-potato fries best the standard taters here, and will be familiar to anyone who has had the red-strings at Grizzly Peak.

As with Hemingway, not to mention other Lobdell-Carlson eateries, alcohol plays a central role here. At Blue Tractor, with its on-site brewery, beer is the beverage of choice, followed by bourbon. I ordered once from the pro-forma wine list and the barkeep looked at me as if I'd lost my mind; I understood why when I took a sip of the god-awful Rodney Strong Chardonnay. On subsequent trips I stuck with the house brews. Offerings change, but on my trips I tried a lovely IPA and a hoppy amber pils. The flavors are generally good, but Blue Tractor needs to perfect the pour and get a better head on these.

Service was variable, more barlike than restaurantish, and improved substantially over time. At one early all-women outing, everybody had a crush on the server by the time we left. Not only was he one of those handsome, hammy guys who toss out compliments like hot dogs at a ballpark; whatever he delayed or goofed up (which was quite a lot) he comped on the bill. On another outing, the poor waiter was so shy I could barely make out his mumble. But by the time the place had been open two months, servers and the kitchen always seemed to be in sync, with food arriving hot, as ordered, and at comfortable intervals.

Blue Tractor delivered its best news when it was time to settle up, with surprisingly low bottom lines and enough leftovers for the next day's lunch.

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Quick Bites

The late adolescent male is a marvel of nature, with a hypercharged appetite and the metabolism to go with it. One Saturday afternoon at **Maru,** the new Korean place on East William, we watched in awe as a quartet of athletic young guys trudged in from the snow still in their soccer shorts and proceeded to order and consume a parade of shared dishes—bubbling stews, rice bowls, and steaming noodles like what their mothers might have made back home.

Maru food has that homey touch: it's warm, spicy, rib sticking, and comforting. The fare is the handiwork of owner Dukki Hong, who honed his chops at the fine Arirang on Oak Valley Drive before buying and sprucing up the former Seoul Korner last year.

Sip a cup of barley tea and mull the modest menu that revolves around rice dishes, hot pots, noodles, barbecue, and stir-fries, with a few scary fusion entries like a Spam-and-cheese hot pot. The miso soup is forgettable, but the main dishes are solid: *dolsat* bibim bap in a sizzling stone bowl filled with rice, crisp vegetables, and shaved beef and topped with a soft-yoked, sunny-side-up egg; and bulgogi, a voluminous plate of thin-sliced, grilled beef shining in a sweet-salty sauce. The requisite tiny *banchan*—dishes that might include kimchi, pickled seaweed, and tangy sprouts—change frequently, but on our visits they were more adequate than exceptional.

For pure heat, go for the *jjamppong,* thick wheat noodles with broad flat slices of carrots, julienne napa, slivered green onion, sliced shiitakes, and an interesting assortment of mussels, clams, shrimp, and octopus in a fiery, head-clearing broth. For subtlety and warmth, the *manduguk* is wonderful—these dumplings in a sublime broth could fix any winter blues. Most entrees are priced from $8 to $12, with well-priced lunch combinations at $7.50–$9.50.

Maru Korean Restaurant, 414 East William, 761–1977. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Closed Sun.

—Bix Engels

Let's Eat! is online at arborweb.com. Send your chow tips to bixtips@comcast.net.

The Zingerman's Times

© 2009 DSE Inc. March 2009 Printed in Ann Arbor Land of a thousand flavors

Local delicatessen celebrates 27 years



Insiders tell the *Times* that the folks at Zingerman's wanted to do something special for all the amazing people who have supported the Deli—hailed as "the center of my gastro-deli universe" by culinary celebrity Mario Batali—through nearly three decades (and counting!) of great food, friendship and fun. "We want to say 'thank you' to the community for the past 27 incredible years," Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig confirms. "They've been tasty, lively, full of joy and generosity. We're looking forward to many more!"



Zingerman's Delicatessen Birthday Party
Sunday, March 15 • Surprises All Day!

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- Exclusive discounts
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- And more!

Check out www.zingermansdeli.com for details.
Everyone welcome!



ann arbor's raw milk cheese is here!

Great Lakes Cheshire is now available at Zingerman's Deli, Creamery & Roadhouse

Sources say Zingerman's has long been excited to offer full-flavored, traditional cheeses made right down the road at Zingerman's Creamery. Cheesemaker John Loomis has been making cheeses in Ann Arbor since the 80s. John's latest creation, the Great Lakes Cheshire, is the first raw milk cheese being made in Ann Arbor and is based on a recipe that dates back hundreds of years. The Cheshire is related to cheddar, with a different, more crumbly texture and a sharper bite. Try it on a grilled cheese! Visit the Deli, Creamery or Roadhouse and ask for a sample.

Check out www.zingermanscreamery.com to learn more about Zingerman's handmade cheeses, or come by the Creamery any Sunday at 2pm for a tour. Cost: $5; reservations recommended. Call 734.929.0500.

times readers tour ireland, without leaving ann arbor!

• **Irish Brown Soda Bread** —Baked fresh at Zingerman's Bakehouse March 1-17! Made from limited quantities of special soft wholemeal flour that has been shipped directly from Walton's Mill in County Cork, Ireland. Ask for a sample of this very special bread at Zingerman's Bakehouse and Deli right away–it's available for a limited time only!

• **Zingerman's Roadhouse Irish Menu Specials and Special Dinner**—James Beard-nominated Chef Alex Young is serving up full-flavored traditional dishes from the Emerald Isle for a special dinner on March 17, 7 pm. Cost is $45. Check out www.zingermansroadhouse.com for the full menu!

• **Corned Beef and Cabbage at Zingerman's Deli**—Made with Sy Ginsberg's award-winning corned beef, available at the Deli on March 17.

• Check out www.zingermans.com for mail order-able Irish food favorites, including Kerrygold Irish Butter, Macroom's Irish Oatmeal and much more!

KERRYGOLD

zingerman's bakehouse predicted to be this summer's vacation hot spot!

Midwest Living calls it "One of 10 Trips You'll Talk About"

Reports from the *Times* travel bureau confirm that home-bakers of all skill levels from across the country are quickly filling spaces for culinary vacations at Zingerman's Bakehouse. Experts consider these 4-day hands-on BAKE-cations the best opportunity to learn the methods and recipes that have made Zingerman's Bakehouse one of the most respected artisanal bakeries in the country. For reservations and additional information, see www.bakewithzing.com or call 734.761.7255.

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Pastry Bake-cation • June 2-5 & July 14-17
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Zingerman's Coffee Company

rwandan coffee named roaster's pick

Zingerman's Coffee Company's Roastmaster Allen Leibowitz confirms that Rwanda is fast becoming known the producer of some of the world's top grade specialty coffees. Allen describes the batch that Zingerman's is featuring for March as "well-balanced, with strong notes of Earl Grey and bergamot."

According to the US Agency for International Development, Rwanda's small estate farmers use their income from coffee production to help the community build schools and make home improvements.

Find the Rwandan java all month at Zingerman's Deli, Roadhouse and www.zingermans.com.

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www.Zingermans.com

Herman Bock, decorator

A message from the past at the U-M Law Library

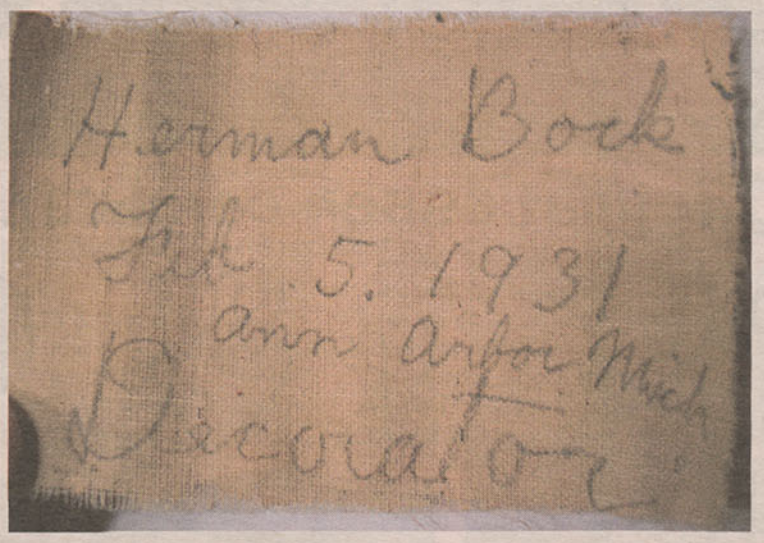
Last summer, Deb Adamic was cleaning the ceiling of the U-M Law Library's reading room when she spotted a cubbyhole where the ceiling beams meet the wall. Reaching in, Adamic felt something loose and pulled out a grimy tube. Inside was a rolled-up piece of canvas bearing the inscription "Herman Bock—Feb. 5, 1931—Ann Arbor, Mich.—Decorator."

"It was like a gift from the past," says Adamic's boss, Ron Koenig. "He put his name up fifty feet off the ground where no one could see it, with the thought that someday someone would see his name."

Many people know that Law School alum William Cook (class of 1882) gave the money for the beautiful Law Quadrangle. Historians are well aware that York and Sawyer, well-respected East Coast architects, designed the buildings. But until Adamic discovered Bock's note, the artisans who decorated the building had remained uncredited.

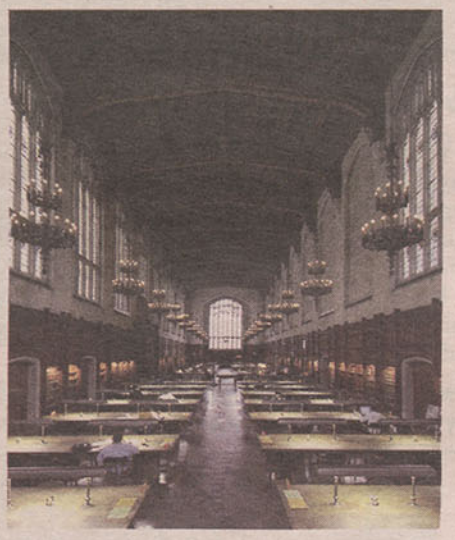
A city directory of the time shows a Herman R. Bock and his wife, Elizabeth, living at 435 South First Street. His occupation is listed as "painter."

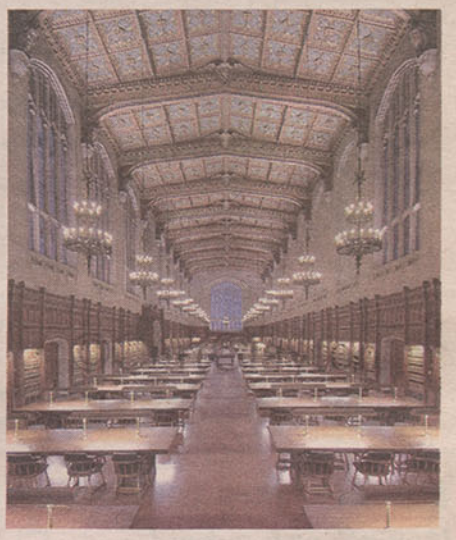
"Decorative painters were the unsung heroes" of historic buildings, Koenig says. "They traveled from project to project and kept a low profile." Although they're rare, Koenig had previously run across a couple of other examples of artisans who have left their names to posterity. In the early 1990s, when he was working at the state capitol in Lansing, he found the name Frank Baumgras written on the top of a door frame. The door was poplar and pine, treated to look like walnut. Koenig did some research and discovered that Baumgras was only peripherally involved in the decoration—his brothers and nephews did most of it—so it's possible he signed his work because he was unused to anonymity. The name was left intact, with a piece of Plexiglas to protect it.





"It was like a gift from the past," says Ron Koenig. Last summer, while restoring the ceiling of the U-M Law Library, one of his workers found a scrap of canvas signed by Herman Bock—one of the unsung artisans who did the original painting seventy-seven years earlier.





Kicked off by Charles Munger's $3 million gift, the "lighting project" renewed and brightened the cathedral-like reading room. "We cleaned a ceiling the size of a football field with balls of cotton," says Ron Koenig.

Working at Wisconsin's capitol in 1996, Koenig was cleaning and replicating painted surfaces when he found five or six signatures entwined in a floral design high on a wall. He realized they were all women's names and thought, "Wow—what a great thing." When the wing where he was working was built, from 1910 to 1913, it would have been unusual for women to be involved in such a project.

It is easy to imagine why Herman Bock would have wanted credit for his work on the Law School's reading room. The coffered ceiling, made of plaster hand painted to look like wood, is gorgeous. The recessed square panels are painted in a fleur-de-lis pattern in blue and ivory. The beams that run across the ceiling are richly decorated in bright colors and have winged shields at their midpoints. Figures of griffins—mythical winged lions—hold more shields at the points where the beams meet the walls.

The four Law Quad buildings were erected between 1923 and 1933. The library was the third completed, in 1931. It looks and feels like a Tudor Gothic cathedral, except that the entrance is on the low, long north side rather than the high, peaked east or west end. There's even stained glass in the windows—though instead of depicting saints, these feature the seals of other universities with law schools.

Except for routine maintenance and repair, no work had been done on the reading room since it opened. Small lights lit the desks, and light streamed in from the stained-glass windows higher up, but the area between was gloomy. The painted ceiling had darkened with age.

In June 2007 the Law School received a $3 million gift from Charles Munger, a Warren Buffett associate who attended the U-M as an undergrad but didn't finish (interrupted by World War II, he never got a bachelor's degree—but did graduate from Harvard Law School). The school raised matching funds for what it called the "lighting project," since the focus was on making the reading room brighter (it also included safety improvements in the library and neighboring Hutchins Hall).

"The reading room is such a gem," says Lois Harden, the Law School's facilities manager. "We wanted to do updates as needed while enhancing the iconic areas and have it all work together, not pull apart." For instance, exit signs were required but would have looked out of place on the walls. Instead, they were installed on historic-looking metal poles.

Ron Koenig was delighted to win the bid to renovate the ceiling. He had lived in the Law Quad in 1971 when he was a grad student studying English and had fallen in love with the Law Library. Even then, he had noticed that the ceiling needed cleaning.

The ceiling job presented two major challenges: how to work safely fifty feet above the floor, and how to clean and restore the paint without doing any damage. The first challenge was solved with rolling towers. The second was made easier when Koenig discovered that the paint was oil based, not water based, and therefore wouldn't dissolve in water-based cleaner.

Still, the job was huge. "We cleaned a ceiling the size of a football field with balls of cotton," says Koenig. He also recast medallions damaged when lights were installed, cleaned parts of the limestone walls that had suffered water damage, and treated metal light units to look like stone.

While work on the ceiling proceeded, Harden sent the reading desks, also untouched since the library opened, out to be refinished. When the ceiling work was done, she also had the original cork floors replaced. They had worn remarkably well and did an excellent job of keeping the noise down, but they were dirty and scuffed. Most of the work was finished by the time the Law School opened last fall. The last job, rehanging the restored chandeliers, was done over Christmas break.

Herman Bock's signature hasn't been forgotten. Koenig had the canvas framed on acid-free matting, with glass on each side so that both the front and the back are visible. He will give it to the Law School to display in the building.

The Law School's enrollment has doubled since the Law Quad opened. Its next challenge is to create more room without harming the beauty of the original buildings.

Two attempts to expand the complex have been made in the past, one more successful than the other. The modern-style metal addition to the library stacks facing Monroe Street is widely disliked, while the clever underground library addition is widely applauded. The Law School is now raising money for a three-pronged project: to replace the stacks' metal cladding with a stone facade; to create a student commons by filling in a courtyard between the library and Hutchins Hall; and constructing an entirely new building in place of the parking lot across Monroe Street, next to Weill Hall.

—Grace Shackman

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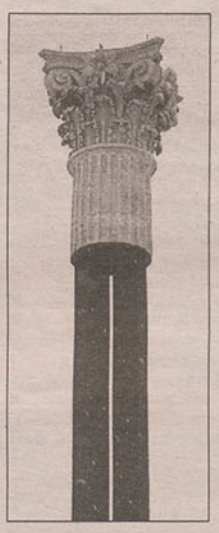
by Sally Bjork

After making way for the new—the old, returned.



To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"Look! It's the old column from Lorch," wrote Tony Vanky, identifying February's I Spy. The top and bottom elements of a massive Corinthian column were presented to Emil Lorch, the U-M's first architecture dean, in 1931, and long stood in what David Cooke recalled as "an architectural sculpture garden" outside the Central Campus building that now bears Lorch's name.



As Michael McKelvey noted, the column has since rejoined the architecture college on North Campus. Restored to its original height with the aid of what the college describes as a "contemporary steel armature," it was rededicated as a memorial to Lorch in celebration of the recent centennial of the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Its capital now towers fifty-five feet above Bonisteel Boulevard—it's so tall that "most of the time I'm looking at the square base," wrote Vivian Loh, who passes it daily. "I have watched [the project] from inception to completion," wrote entrant Leila Covrigaru, while Tony Vanky, a TCAUP alum, surmised, "I'm perhaps one of a few entrants who saw [the column] from indoors."

Twenty-seven entrants correctly identified the Lorch column. Dan Teitelbaum won our random drawing; he'll receive a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

Last month's Fake Ad for Barbor-Webster Hardware (p. 48) offered consumers an opportunity to pay billions of dollars less for a tarp than the government was about to pay for its TARP (the Troubled Asset Relief Program). Quite a few of the 214 Fake Adders who correctly identified the ad thought that sounded like an attractive offer. "I am also looking for a deal and anytime I can save $699,999,999,990.05 dollars, I am all over it," wrote Roger Ratkowski.



The entries also included at least one from a rookie. "This is the first time that I noticed the 'Fake Ad' section in the Observer," wrote Alex Baker. "However, it was only the third copy that I have read. My family and I recently moved here from Philadelphia in 2008. My son and I enjoyed looking back through the pages to find the Fake Ad. I tried to explain what a TARP is to my son. However, he's only two and a half years old. So, I guess you could say he was as confused as most of us! I guess I will have to wait until at least his fifth birthday to explain government spending." This month's winner, Toni Ausum of Ann Arbor, is taking her $25 to Sweetwaters.

To enter, identify the March Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. *Arborweb,* the name of an Observer website, is always in the Fake Ad as a clue—in February it was lightly concealed in "Barbor-Webster Hardware." The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–3375. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Tuesday, March 10, will be eligible for the March drawings.

school of art & design

MARCH 2009

www.art-design.umich.edu

March 5th PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

Jacque Fresco: *Global Sustainability*



Futurist, designer, behavioral scientist, artist, inventor and author Jacque Fresco envisions a more humane global civilization blending science, technology, and human and environmental concerns. With support from the UM Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

March 6th – April 10th

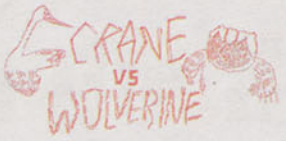
Exhibition: *SILENCE: Reading the Heavens*



Two large scale installations by A&D Professor Jim Cogswell.
Opening Reception: March 6, 5 - 7pm
Residential College Art Gallery,
701 East University Avenue

March 6th and March 13th

Exhibition Opening Receptions:
Wolverine vs Crane



An exchange exhibition between graduate students from the School of Art & Design and Cranbrook.
March 6, 6 - 10pm – work by A&D graduate students.
Hangar Space, Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward, Detroit
March 13, 7 - 10pm – work by Cranbrook graduate students.
A&D Graduate Student Studios, 1631 S. State St., Ann Arbor

March 7th

Exhibition: *Femmes: Front and Center*



An MFA thesis photography show by A&D graduate student Kristin Kurzawa
6 - 8pm
Sh'Aut Gallery, Braun Court, Ann Arbor

March 8th

Performance: *Danielle Abrams*



A performance by A&D Assistant Professor Danielle Abrams as part of "The Invisible Thread: Women's Day of Learning"
10am
The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, 2939 Birch Hollow Drive

March 12th PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

Richard Saul Wurman: *A Conversation*



Wurman is an architect, creator of the Access Travel Guide Series, chairman and creative director of the TED conferences, and author/designer of 80 books. With support from the UM Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, UM School of Information, and AIGA Detroit-the Professional Association for Design.
Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

March 13th – April 3rd

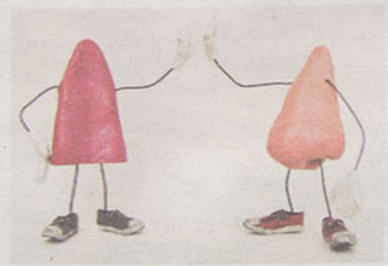
Exhibition: *The Design Show*



Participants explore the power of design to influence and change our world.
Opening Reception: March 13, 6 - 9pm
Slusser Gallery, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd, 1st Floor

March 13th – April 3rd

Exhibition: *The Five Senses*



An exhibition examining the capabilities of our senses to delight, astonish and confound.
Opening Reception: March 13, 6 - 9pm
Work • Ann Arbor, 306 S. State

March 13th – April 3rd

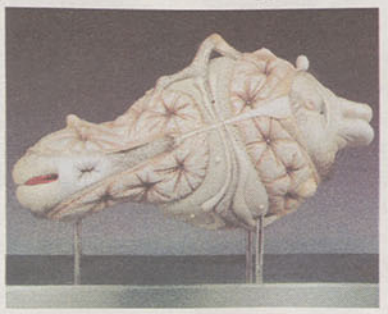
Exhibition: *Relish the Lick*



An MFA thesis exhibition of collages by A&D graduate student Lindsay Stern.
Opening Reception: March 13, 6 - 9pm
Warren Robbins Gallery,
2000 Bonisteel Blvd., 2nd floor

March 16th

Public Lecture: *Jason Briggs*



Ceramicist and sculptor Jason Briggs discusses his work.
Lecture: March 16, 7pm
School of Art and Design Ceramic Studio, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd. 1st floor

March 19th PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

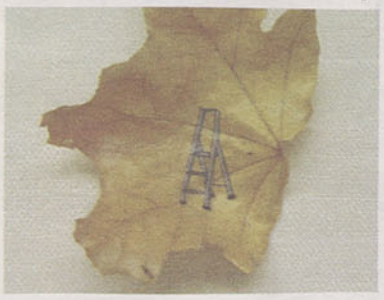
Marina Abramovic: *Performing Body*



In her performance work Abramovic uses her experiences in Tibet, Ladakh and among the Australian Aborigines to bring the body to a borderline state. With support from the UM Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Chelsea's River Gallery, and MOCAD - Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit.
Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

February 20th – March 20th

Exhibition: *Change/It's All There Already*



Artists/designers explore the nature and meaning of change. Co-curated by Hamtramck based visual thinker, George Rahme.
Work • Detroit, 3663 Woodward Ave, Detroit

March 24th – April 8th

Exhibition: *14th Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners.*



Presented by the UM Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP), this year's exhibition focuses on climate change. Co-curated by A&D Associate Professor Janie Paul
Opening Reception: March 24, 5:30 – 8pm
Duderstadt Center Gallery,
2281 Bonisteel Blvd.

March 26th PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

George Manupelli: *Unauthorized History*



Filmmaker, painter, collagist, and activist George Manupelli is the founder of the Ann Arbor Film Festival, and the filmmaker for the "Dr. Chicago" trilogy. With support from the 47th Ann Arbor Film Festival.
Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

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